

LPA DISTRICT 12 1982 - 1985

Creator – Harriet Stickney

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Little Lawyer Reaching High

Dallas

Davey Lamb sees only one handicap in his race for the Texas legislature — and it's not his height.

Lamb, a 4-foot-4 dwarf, is running a door-to-door campaign to bolster his political image.

"People open the door and look hard at me at first," he said in an interview yesterday. "They don't know what to expect. Then I speak and they relax and things go fine."

He admits, however, that he has perhaps one handicap:

"Some people may think it a liability to run as a Democrat in Dallas County."

Lamb, a former director of the Little People of America organization, hopes someday to go to Congress.

"I dream big," said Lamb, 29, who holds a law degree from Southern Methodist University. "My dad was a cab driver and unlike a lot of parents of dwarfs he did not discourage me from thinking big. Not many dwarfs go to law school."

Lamb is the only member of



UPI Telephoto

Davey Lamb is running for the Texas legislature and hopes to try for Congress someday

the LPA who is an attorney the only dwarf practicing law in Texas. He has to stand back of the jury box so that he can be seen. But he does get heard.

"I do well in court," he said. "Juries listen to me. I've won eight jury trials this year, won four of them. In criminal cases, the conviction rate is usually much higher. I get points across. I think I'm a late and have presence."

He said he got into politics because he wanted to help people.

"I remember listening to speeches of Robert Kennedy in 1968 and thinking about how he was changing the whole political system," said Lamb. "I thought the best way to help people was to become a lawyer and throw myself into politics. I want to make a contribution to the world."

"I want to be a progressive one who helps the average person, the man in the street. I want to represent the public interest against the special interests. My eventual goal is to become a congressman."

United Press



LINDA ALLEN: Organizer and backer-upper of L.A. Petites (Girl's Baseball team); PETE REISCH: Has major role in movie "Something Evil Comes This Way".



DOROTHY HENDERSON--LPA MOTHER TO MANY, is presently Board member, LAC LPA.



PAUL AND BROOK HOLTSCLAW: Two of L.A.'s best supporting members; SF Bay Area Chapter President, HARRIET STICKNEY and husband, ALFRED (WALKMAN II winner, 1981 L.A. Christmas Banquet!)



NEW YORKERS--CAROLE MORRIS, FRANK LENTINI, AND DARCY PAINTER...And, yes, PAM, they also use CREST!!



JOHN PINEDA / Miami Herald Staff

Mom, Irene Van Etten, checks her son's attire while bride Angela Muir awaits start of ceremony.

Prince and lady of little people exchange vows

By CHRIS SPOLAR
Herald Staff Writer

Under the watchful eye of his mother, his sister, two brothers — and a massive mural of Christ atop the shoulders of St. Christopher — Bobby Van Etten grabbed Angela Muir's hand and caused an international incident.

The president of the Little People of America married the past president of the Little People of New Zealand.

"It's the same as all the other weddings," he said, pulling on his white tuxedo minutes before the ceremony at St. Christopher's Catholic Church in Hobe Sound. "Except there's more little people and a lot of love."

Muir, a demure 28-year-old lawyer dressed in white lace and holding a blue-and-white nosegay, was a patient bride waiting in the back of the chapel Saturday afternoon. But then she already knew what to expect.

The hour long ceremony was the second time at the altar for the couple, both of whom stand 3 foot 4 inches tall. The first was held Oct. 31 in Muir's native country with her parents, sisters and brother attending.

The two met, Muir said, when she traveled to the United States on a three-month Winston Churchill Fellowship to research programs designed to change the

public's attitude toward disabled people.

Her inquiries led her to Van Etten, 32, a biomedical engineer for the federal government's Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board.

"We met on business," she said smiling, "And we went on from there."

What went on Saturday, with the strains of *Annie* and *The Wedding Song* in the background, was a celebration of little people — persons 4 feet 10 inches or shorter who are defined as medically dwarfed. Or as best man Ed Lang said, a wedding that made Bobby and Angela the "royal couple" of little people.

"We called them our royal couple," said Lang, publisher of the Little People of America newsletter. "Prince Bobby and Lady Angela. Now the sun never sets on little people."

The couple invited more than 100 people to the wedding — including 30 little people. The maid of honor, best man, ring bearer, flower girl and singer all were little people. The rest of the wedding party included Van Etten's sister and 6 foot tall younger brothers.

"I guess we wanted to show that little people are like everyone else," Muir said.

Some changes make standard house more workable for busy woman

HER BULKY FRAME swayed as she stood on a foot stool to catch water from the standard-sized sink in her standard-sized kitchen to make orange juice.

Why did she use a stool? Because Janny Schneider is a dwarf: She stands 4-feet, 4-inches tall. She doesn't like to be called little.

But she is, and several adjustments had to be made to make her conventional Wauwatosa home accommodate her size.

The house has not been changed structurally, however — Miss Schneider, 45, doesn't want that. She enjoys entertaining in her standard home. What adjustments she has needed over the years she managed to have done for a few thousand dollars.

Why hadn't she made adjustments before now? Miss Schneider said, "I just didn't need them before now. I got along very well with the way things were — but I get along better now that I have them."

IN HER PALE blue kitchen, a 30-inch high counter, six inches lower than standard, was installed in 1970.

At that counter, she makes toast, bakes bread, blends orange juice, dices vegetables for soups and stews and performs any other kitchen chore she wishes.

"This counter is wonderful. It enables me to do things that I don't have to ask my housekeeper (who comes in once a week) to do," she said. "Besides, I love to bake and cook and I like to do things for myself."

Flour and sugar, usually transferred to small canisters

on top of the kitchen counter, are stored in pull-out bins below her bread board.

To get something from one of the top shelves in her side-by-side refrigerator, the service of one of her many foot stools is required. She must also use a stool to place something in the upper oven of her stove.

"THAT'S NOT REALLY a problem and I'm not frightened to do it," said Miss Schneider, formerly a full time secretary for a defunct public relations firm.

When she sits at her dinette table, her feet are at least 10 inches off the floor. The situation is the same when she sits in her elevator chair to ride to the handsomely decorated upstairs portion of her home.

"I can walk up and down the stairs, but for convenience I ride in the chair," she said.

The chair, which resembles a dentist's chair, runs along the side of the stairway. It deposits her almost inside the door of her bedroom, which is equipped with a standard-sized bedroom set. In her clothes closet, racks and hooks have been installed low so that she can reach them.

Her living room has two rather low easy chairs. While they are smaller than most, Miss Schneider said they were not made especially for her. She purchased them about 10 years ago.

IN HER BATHROOMS, the toilet, medicine chest, sink

Changes

Turn to Page 2

Little modification went long way

Changes

From Page 1

and wall fixtures are low and the mirrors are tilted toward the floor.

"I had the bathrooms remodeled in 1973," she said. Up until that time, she said the bathroom fixtures were working but they were old fashioned.

"That's why I didn't remodel the bathrooms before now. They worked fine but this house is very old," she said. "Everything in the bathrooms was old, too, so I had all new lower bathroom fixtures installed. I also had the entire plumbing system redone.

"I think I've reached the peak I wanted to with the remodeling of the house. I'm hesitant about investing more money into it, because I get along very well with the adjustments that I have made, which cost me only a few thousand dollars."

Another reason she is hesitant is that she isn't home all the time; she does a lot of volunteer work for Christ King Congregation and spends a good deal of time at the Milwaukee Athletic Club.

"I KEEP MYSELF very busy so I don't have too much time to worry about doing more for the house," she said.

Miss Schneider said she wants to

keep the house as standard as possible because she entertains a lot. "That may be one of the reasons I never moved. I love to give parties and this house has a lot of space.

"No," she said, "I won't move. I've been living in this house since 1937. I was 3 years old when my parents moved here. It has been a part of my life for so long and I've never thought about moving to a smaller place.

"I have wonderful neighbors and I get along very well here," said Miss Schneider. "I learned a long time ago to accept the normal way of life. I have."

— BRENDA CHESTNUT



Emanuel, left, and Frank on their way to lunch at their favorite downtown Sacramento cafe.

Staff Photo by Jerry Rainbolt

Frank Daniels and Emanuel Fanning have formed a friendship to admire, one that yields some special rewards to each of them.



Staff Photo by Henry Au

At Frank's place, to watch a little TV.

Buddies

Rain begins to fall on the sidewalk outside the New Governor Grill by the alley on 7th Street.

Emanuel, his hands hidden in a plaid coat that threatens to lip the ground, does a nervous shuffle. The wet soles of his feet mark the cement like the diagram of an obscure dance step.

He is waiting for Frank to finish some "business" nearby.

Together they push through the swinging doors of the luncheonette and shuffle past hunched men in tired wool to the booth in the back corner.

Frank orders oxtail stew. Emanuel orders oxtail stew.

"Closest thing to soul food around here," says Frank.

"Yeah," says Emanuel. "I like oxtail stew."

It's their only meal of the day. They pick the bones bare.

The sky grows darker and out on the street the dudes are standing under trees and in entrance-ways.

"I don't mind the rain," says Emanuel.

"Well, my name ain't Donald Duck," says Frank, laughing.

Their afternoon downtown cut short by the rain, they catch the No. 72 bus back to Oak Park.

Frank Daniels is 69 years old; Emanuel



Tony Bizjak

Fanning is 23. The elder stands 6 feet tall; his friend, 3 feet.

Frank first set eyes on Emanuel about four weeks ago when the younger man moved into the apartment complex on Sacramento Boulevard. He had never before seen a man quite like Emanuel, but he understood.

"Emanuel is a man just as I am," he says from a tattered chair in his apartment. "He is just a little short."

"He has integrity like anyone and I tell him so and I think he appreciates it. Do he?"

"I do!" says his friend, perched in a smaller

● To D2, Col. 1

SALE TO MURDER 1-30-1992

The friendship of Frank and Emanuel

● From D1

chair aimed at the television.

"Well, good," Frank says. "It's good you tell me one time."

"You know I appreciate it, Pop," Emanuel says. "When I ain't at my apartment, I'm always here talking to Pop."

"Well, you sneak off and I'll whup your little behind," Frank says grinning.

Every day the two catch the bus outside their apartment complex to go downtown for their \$3 meal at the luncheonette up the block from the Greyhound bus station.

"We just trifles around," says Frank, "do us some sightseeing."

"When we get tired, we just come home and watch a little TV," says Emanuel.

He wears a red and white T-shirt that reads "The Ultimate Man" and a blue knit-cap on his head, indoors as well as out. A tad of hair sticks to his chin. He smokes a cigar.

He sits way back to laugh when Frank tells a tale; leans forward with elbows on ankles to stare at the rug when Frank talks philosophy.

"You can touch some individuals and they feel a part of you, no matter race or creed or age or nuthin'," Frank says. "That is the way it is with me and buster here."

Downtown, they are inseparable.

"I stick right by him," Emanuel says. "I feel safe with him."

"Nobody bothers my little man. We stay away from radical crowds," Frank says.

Downtown, the dudes see Frank and Emanuel coming and they holler, "Hey shortstuff, hey shortchange."

A man hands Emanuel a cane and proclaims, "It's bigger'n you are."

Emanuel laughs.

"It doesn't bother me as long as they don't get stupid about it, get too much out of hand," he says. "But I don't want nobody to call me Shorty. Nobody. Then I get mad."

"I gotta have respect."

Emanuel was the only one of 10 brothers and sisters less than normal height.

He spent most of his life in the Bay Area and moved to Sacramento two years ago. He has some relatives here. He plans on going to trade school soon and wants to open a fix-it shop.

Meantime, he has found something he never thought he'd have — a father.

"My real dad," he says, "we didn't really get along. He didn't treat me like a father treats a son. He never spent time with me."

"He did his thing and I did mine. That made me sad."

His father let him go.

Frank listens to this, then says: "When he wants to go off, I'm gonna tell him the opposite of his father. I'm gonna say, son, it isn't time for you to go yet."

Frank had a family, but they have grown up and are gone. Born on a sharecropper's plantation in Clayton, Ala., he has lived in Sacramento since 1949 when he came out here to find his fortune. He is retired now.

"I failed to find streets paved with gold, but I like it here, with or without," he says.

Frank chews Skoal and spits it in a tin can beside his chair. With a bald pate, thick black-rimmed glasses and tight, sharply-etched jowls, Frank has the noble look of experience.

"Been many miles from that day to here," he says. "I'd never go back, less'n 'Manuel come back with me."

He looks at his buddy and his voice turns playful.

"You ready to plow a mule 'Manuel?'"

"Yeah. Or drive a tractor," says Emanuel, hopping from his seat.

Frank is subdued again.

"Yeah, well times would have to be different for us to go back there now, 'Manuel. Things would have to be pretty tough."

"Yeah."

Frank and Emanuel talk about women.

"You should see some of the women 'Manuel's been swinging around with," he says.

"They're nice," Emanuel admits sheepishly.

"I got me some girlfriends too," Frank adds. "Mine are big and fat, aren't they 'Manuel. We kind of like them like that."

"You know the best way to hook a woman 'Manuel?" he asks.

"I jump on the table," says Emanuel.

"You give her the first and the last word,"

Frank explains. "You just say, 'Yes, dear.'"

"I'm getting to the age I should think about getting married," Emanuel says. "Have some kids and bring them around for grandfather to babysit."

"While you go out and have fun," Frank says.

"'Manuel, can you make a baby?'"

"Yeah, don't worry. They'd even be tall. I love kids."

"I bet your wife will make them like rabbits."

The night is broken by a fire engine's wail; it stops out front. Emanuel stands on the couch and peers out the window, then hurries out the front door to see what is going on.

His friend gone, Frank says: "Since I met 'Manuel, I feel like a powerhouse with a million volts in it. I feels great."

"'Manuel is just a beginner. I like to teach him. Swap ideas with him. I want him to meet people as a friend."

Emanuel returns and says of Frank: "He's a lot wiser. He knows a lot of things. I'm not a baby or nuthin', but I still got lots of things to learn."

March-April 1982



L to R (bottom L): Jim, Ann, Daniel, John, Lisa, Todd; (Row 2) David, Matt, Carole, Chuck; (Row 3) Chris, David, Donna, Cathy, Judy, Sebrina, Theresa; (Row 4) David, Chuckles, Erik--Lake Tahoe Ski Trip, December-January 1982.

Feb 1982

New Year's at Tahoe!

...by Judy & Carole

A caravan of 7 Dwarfs trucked up to beautiful Lake Tahoe with chains and all; and dreams of a wonderful week. On the way up we were greeted with a blizzarding snowstorm. But with the help of our fearless friends--Doc (Chuck Secor), Sneezy (Chuckles Pedersen), and Bashful (Jim Fisher), we were able to go on with the aid of chains. Sleepy, Happy, Grumpy & Dopey were greatly relieved! It took us not 6, not 8, not 10, but only 12 hours--a world record in arriving! We were greeted by a speeding red VW Van to save us from the swallowing darkness. It led us to two fabulous (most welcomed) condo's in the mountains. We caused a record-breakin' daylight at 4:30 a.m. We were greatly disappointed though, when we found out Snow White (Brook) and her Prince (Paul) would not be arriving until the next night. We sacked out--but not for long! "Knock, knock; breakfast is ready--eggs, bacon, Cheerios, and O.J." We all got acquainted with old friends and new, even from as far as Wisconsin, Kentucky, Texas and the State of Washington. Ma and Pa Stickney spent a few hours with us one evening for pizza; unfortunately, they had to leave suddenly; rumor has it that Ma had to return to San Bruno to phone her mother in Sheboygan, Wisconsin by six the next morning....



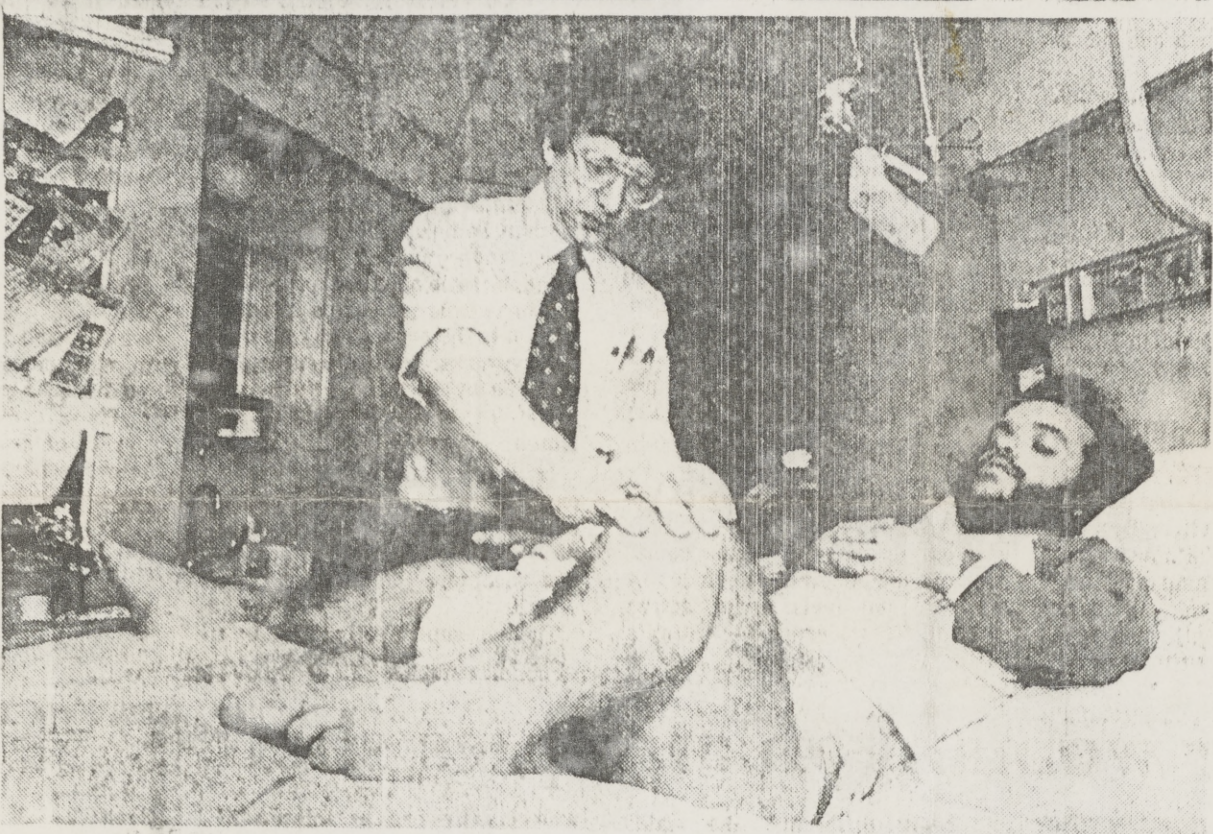
As to the skiing, on the slopes there were some beginners who gave it their all and enjoyed it immensely. Others took it more seriously, and thought they could attack the slope all by themselves, and found out the slope was not in agreement. (Hey, Matt, how is your ankle?)...One crisp evening a bunch of us decided to take a nice stroll in the falling snow. All of a sudden a snow-bomb fell out of the sky and hit Todd! That was it--war was declared!! Every person for himself! Snow White was our only ally, hiding our glasses and cameras. The enemies were plowed into the snowbanks, and snow-bombs were plastered all over the bodies! (No, Chris; it wasn't your usual nightly stroll...) And then back to the old homestead...there were meals to cook, dishes to clean, drinks to make, and cars galore to shovel out!!!! Sphagetti was growing out of the pot...Carole, are you sure you have everything under control...Sure, I can handle it...How are your dishpan hands, Sabrina and Chuck....Sure you got enough vodka in the punch....what color is it this time...Lookin' good...watch out--here comes the snowplow again, Paul and Daniel!

The fire was heartwarming while playing games, telling jokes & just enjoying the good time together...All you that didn't go, missed a heck of a good time. We hope to see you all next year...We would like to give special recognition to Paul, Daniel, Chuck & Matt for making sure everyone was happy and content--which we all were--and we thank you!! (P.S. Skiing was fantastic with 3 feet of fresh powdered snow!!)



L TO R: MARY BETH ELEY, GINO PONZA, CATHY TENNISON, CHRIS NUNN, JUDY BYZEWSKI, TODD SHEPARD, CHUCKLES PEDERSEN AND ERIK PEDERSON

A boost for the 'little people'



Dr. Laird Jackson, founder of program for dwarfs at Thomas Jefferson University

Hospital, examines X-rays (top) and the legs of patient Paul Miller, 20, a student.

Courier-Post photos by Ron Karafin

Doctors pool resources to help dwarfs cope

By JUDITH W. WINNE
Of the Courier-Post

Paul Miller is a friendly, verbal junior at the University of Pennsylvania who hopes to become a lawyer some day.

He stands 4 feet 5 inches tall.

Miller, who comes from Huntington, N.Y., suffers from a condition called achondroplasia, a form of dwarfism. He says there are problems associated with shortness, like strangers equating height with intelligence, but there are advantages, too.

"It makes me stand out in a crowd and people tend to remember me much more than if I were just an average person," he says. In junior high, Miller was the first student in his school to become president of his class three years in a row.

MILLER'S physical ailments are very real. He suffers from chronic back problems and recently had to be hospitalized when a simple but convulsive sneeze in the shower caused him to temporarily lose all feeling in his legs.

Miller is a patient in a year-old program at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital that attempts to aid those no taller than 5 feet 1 inch.

There are few magical cures.

Those who are "constitutionally" short — their parents are short and they are tiny, too, because of a combination of genetic factors — cannot be transformed into professional basketball material.

Those whose shortness is caused by a lack of the pituitary hormone that controls growth may sprout inches with injections of this hormone. They are commonly called midgets by lay people, but theirs is a form of dwarfism.

THE PRIMARY focus of the program at Jefferson is on patients like Miller and others who suffer from any one of dozens of forms of skeletal dysplasia, which means something has gone wrong with the formation of their bones.

Their limbs or trunks — or both — may be short.

In the absence of wonder cures, what then can physicians at Jefferson do?

"Mostly chase after their secondary problems," says geneticist Dr. Laird G. Jackson, director of the program, professor of pediatrics, director of the division of genetics, professor of medicine and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.

This means monitoring the growth of those whose backs may be short or abnormally formed. The program also aids in controlling obesity.

"A problem which is common to all of us but severely aggravated in short persons is getting fat," says Jackson. "A pound on you and I has about twice as much chance of being missed as it does on a short person."

WHAT MAKES the Jefferson program different is the one-stop approach to care, Jackson says. In addition to Jackson, the team includes an endocrinologist, a pediatric radiologist, an orthopedist, a pediatric orthopedist, a rehabilitation therapist and a social worker for those

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Doctors pool resources to help 'little people'

Continued from Page 1D

who need to discuss the emotional turmoil their lack of height has wrought.

Parents of a newborn dwarf may feel grief and guilt over the different child they have brought into the world and may seek counseling. As the child grows, his size may be more of a burden to the mother and father who feel powerless to stop the teasing their offspring may encounter.

The advantages of the interdisciplinary team, says Jackson, are convenience for the patient, and it is hoped, better care.

"It gets people in different areas to talk to each other and not to treat parts of the body separately and that can be important for the care of the patient," says Jackson.

Jackson says there still are many myths surrounding dwarfism and some professionals in smaller hospi-

tals continue to give advice based on misinformation, lumping all dwarfs in one category, says Jackson.

"I'VE SEEN many instances where a false diagnosis has been made and people have been told, 'Gee, don't have any more children because you will have another dwarf like that who will die,' and it's absolutely false. They almost have zero chance of having another child like that and I've seen people have vasectomies based on that kind of thing."

The Jefferson program was developed in response to the needs expressed by members of the Little People of America, an organization that promotes the interests of short persons.

In addition to medical difficulties, little people have practical problems, like reaching water fountains,

says Jackson. At an LPA convention several years ago that Jackson attended, the hotel set up milk cartons in front of the fountains and steps at the registration desk. The electric eye on the elevators was reset for a lower height.

Pat Gargin of Collingswood is an auxiliary member of the Liberty (Delaware Valley) chapter of LPA. Her 13-year-old daughter, Mary Ellen, is achondroplastic, and Gargin counsels parents with little offspring.

"THERE ARE a lot of hidden feelings," she says. "It's better if you have someone to say them to."

LPA offers support and role models for short people and their families, says Gargin.

"It's very nice to know they can be lawyers or hospital administrators

and everything else. It gives you a lot of hope."

Like any group asserting itself, names are important. "Short stature is the term that LPA likes to encourage," says Gargin. Apparently some little people don't object to the term dwarf; but midget carries a circus sideshow connotation, say Gargin, Paul Miller and Harry McDonald.

McDonald is president of the local Liberty chapter of the LPA. He is 4 feet 3, a mechanical engineer, and he wants average-size persons to know that little people are just folks who happen to be small. They are no dumber, smarter or cuter than you or I. They are not freaks.

Those interested in finding out more about LPA can call Harry McDonald at (215) 632-6717. Those with questions on the Jefferson program may call (215) 928-6955.

CAMPDEN, N.J. Feb 25, 1982
CAMDEN, Courier Post

East Bay Today Tues. April 13, 1982

C-12

Height not a handicap to dwarf or his son



Harry McDonald, his wife Carol and son Brendan, 8, take a stroll in a Philadelphia park.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Harry McDonald was born a dwarf and stands 4-feet-3-inches tall. But McDonald hasn't let his height be a handicap — and doesn't want his dwarfed son Brendan to feel handicapped either.

McDonald, 36, a mechanical engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Philadelphia, has created a world for himself and his 8-year-old son in which they know they are different, but not separate, from other people.

When McDonald and Brendan go shopping, Brendan sits in the cart to hand the food to his father, whose arms are too short to reach the bottom of the cart.

McDonald has equipped his car with pedal extensions so he can reach the accelerator and the brake. Brendan must twist his leg at an odd

angle to reach his shoes, but he ties his laces without help.

McDonald's wife Carol, at 5-foot-3, towers a full foot above her husband and more than two feet above her son. The McDonalds attract their share of stares when they walk together, but Mrs. McDonald says, "My philosophy is that differences among people are obvious, and it's the sameness in people that should be looked at."

McDonald suffers from back problems associated with his dwarfism, and he knew before Brendan was born that his son might suffer from the same, genetically produced difficulties.

But McDonald thinks there is room for little people in the tall person's world.

"Society as a whole was trained to look down on us," he says. "Now that attitude is changing a bit."



Heidi Hahlbeck, 14, watched as Becky Kafka, 7, tried to solve the Rubik's Cube puzzle during a group meeting. In the background were (from left) Lisa Schubert, 16, Carol Schubert, 13, and Jennie Johnson, 7.

—Journal Photo

Small people leave big impression

Continued picture story entitled
"Small people leave big impression"

not discuss the problems that originally brought them together, according to Ileen Helms, the acting president of the Badger chapter.

That was clearly evident at a January meeting in the New Berlin home of Judy and Joseph Kafka, the parents of a little girl who is a dwarf.

The daughter, Tiffany Kafka, 9, is a fourth-grade student at the Hoover Elementary School. She is also a head shorter than her sister, Becky, 7.

Christmas party

The January meeting was also a Christmas party for the group as the little children joined their average-sized brothers and sisters playing, singing, dancing and being entertained by a Santa Claus while their average-sized parents and the adult little people chatted.

"You can ask any questions you want," Judy Kafka told a reporter. "We've been asked them before."

The doctor who delivered Tiffany

immediately recognized that she was a dwarf, she said.

"I knew from the beginning but I don't think the full impact hit me right away," she said. "The doctors all used the term 'achondroplasia' when they described her condition."

"They told me her arms and legs would be about four inches shorter than average and I kept thinking maybe she won't be that short after all."

"Then one day I was in a bookstore and I looked up achondroplasia in a medical book and it said 'see dwarfism.' That's when it really hit me."

Tiffany has and will face some special problems because she is a little person, her mother said. But in every other way, Tiffany is a normal, average child who likes people, school and horses.

Tiffany likes horses so much that when she gets older, she wants to be a jockey or maybe a secretary, her mother said.

"Good for Tiffany," said Helms, a 4-foot-8-inch midget who is the acting president of the group.

"Most people think we're all in show business," Helms, who teaches business courses, told a reporter. "Actually, very few of us are."

Helms, the mother of a son who is 6 feet 3 inches tall, said things were getting better for little people. She said little people could do just about anything they wanted to.

The motto for Little People of America is:
"Think Big" and/or "Small is Better"

of The Journal Staff

New Berlin — When Heidi Hahlbeck was in fourth or fifth grade, one boy in particular made fun of her because she was a dwarf. The boy had a large birthmark that covered almost half of his face.

Heidi's mother suggested that Heidi gently remind the boy of his birthmark. According to the mother, Heidi rejected the idea, saying, "I couldn't do that. He only does to me what others have done to him."

Edie Hahlbeck, Heidi's mother, said the incident was one of many that made her realize that her daughter had a deeper understanding of human nature than many people could ever hope to attain.

Heidi, now 14, is an average ninth-grade student in almost every way, except that she is an achondroplastic dwarf. When she becomes an adult she will probably be between 4 feet and 4 feet 6 inches tall.

The need for support that little people can only get from folks their own size led to the formation last July of the Badger chapter of the Little People of America.

Until the Badger chapter was formed, the Milwaukee area group joined the Chicago chapter for some meetings.

Height requirements

There are about 10 adult members and several children. To qualify, an adult can be no taller than 4 feet 10 inches tall.

Most of the members of the group are dwarfs. Most dwarfs have trunks of average size but their arms and legs are several inches shorter than an adult. Medical books describe a dozen or more different kinds of dwarfs and there are more than 100 possible causes for dwarfism.

Midgets are people who are 4 feet 10 inches tall or less. Their bodies are proportioned evenly.

During meetings, the group does

Continued next page

Some Tall Tales By Those Who Ought to Know

BY DAVE LARSEN

Los Angeles

They are the first ones to know when it rains. But the last to know about the puddles. They are the tall of our land, bless 'em, and they really are good for something other than polishing flagpoles.

Life is difficult enough at a normal height, especially when changing lightbulbs, but when nature has caused a person to sprout excessively, the disadvantages sometimes outweigh the advantages.

Not, however, for those who belong to the California Tip Toppers Club.

"In fact, I wear high heels," said 6-footer Tracey Watts. "When people ask why, I reply that once you reach 6 feet, what difference does it make whether you are 6-foot-4?"

Randa Martin, 6-foot-1, echoed enthusiasm for her distinction.

"When I was in high school I was self-conscious, and I became the class comedian in order to be accepted, to make everybody forget my height," she recalled. "Now I

love the attention of being a tall woman. I remember that once at a rally for Nixon everybody was asking me to hold up their kids so they could see him."

The two women got together and three other female members of the coed club planned one of the highlights of the year for the organization, the annual Miss Tall Los Angeles Pageant, held recently.

Inevitably, the conversation among those present turned to the glee and the gloom of being tall.

Joy Crumley, 6-foot-6½, is president of the 120-member club and a sign painter at Lockheed. She reflected on the greatest plane travel hazard of all: "If the passenger in front of you reclines his seat, you spend the entire flight with your knees to the side."

Which is nothing compared to the agony of driving a car. The problem of insufficient head room is bad enough, but leg room is something else.

"I own a Toyota Corolla," Crumley said. "The only way I can sit inside is to pull the seat forward,

so I can fit my legs around the steering wheel."

Henry Hite of Chicago, who claims to be 8-foot-2, drives a Volkswagen. He had the front seats removed and, at last report, was driving from the back seat.

"Our society needs to be educated on tall awareness," Crumley said. "The automakers should bring out models specifically for tall people."

Another club member, a financial management administrator named Penny Steele, brought out a sore point shared by many of her female counterparts: the lack of a decent selection of clothing.

The club has male members (they must be 6-foot-4 in socks, the women at least 6 feet), but it was women who showed up to promote the pageant, so they got to use the soapbox.

"Some of my wardrobe is men's clothing," Steele lamented. "I have to buy men's shirts and blazers. I can't find my size anywhere else."

Jeanne Mackie, a 6-foot office manager, also bemoaned the lack of modish attire — "Everything available for us is 10 years behind in style."

Martin, an office manager, said she has noticed an improvement lately — more specialty shops, more style orientation. "Seems in the past as if all clothing available has made us look old."

Watts, a design draftsman, also feels the outlook is brightening. "We look good in the right clothes," she said. "I even get to do modeling. Tall and thin is in."

Steele mentioned shoes. "I wear size 12 AAA," she said. "Not only do I have to look around forever, but I rarely have a choice of colors. In an entire run of perhaps 60 pair, the manufacturer might have one size 12. Take it or leave it."

OK, what about the theater?

"We always have to sit on an aisle, so we can stick our legs out," Steele explained. "And then you have to slouch."

Mackie said that if she sits in front of somebody without remem-

bering to scrunch, "I immediately hear a groan from behind."

Elsewhere, drinking fountains are, of course, always too low, as are chandeliers, awnings, supermarket signs, ceilings, lunch counters, bathroom sinks.

And, naturally, always having to face up to the inevitable question.

"When I hear it starting, I automatically reply, without wait-

*Lightbulbs are
neither joke nor
problem for
people of high
accomplishment*

ing for the finish, that I am 6-foot-6½," Crumley sighed.

California Tip Toppers, which was formed here 44 years ago and is affiliated with Tall Clubs International, was instrumental in getting bed manufacturers to come out with king size, according to Crumley.

One thing these pillars of our society all share is pride in their circumstances. They don't wear flats. "Until I was age 15 I slouched, thinking that would make me seem smaller," Mackie recalled. "But all that does is accentuate your height. Now I wouldn't want to disguise it."

After all, take it from five people who should know, being tall does have advantages:

- You can always see the parade.
- You can change lightbulbs without a ladder.
- Nobody asks for an ID at bars.
- The top cupboard in the kitchen can be used.
- You can be at the deep end of the pool with your head out of the water.

And no matter what your situation in life, there is always somebody else who tops you. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the tallest person in the world is a 28-year-old man in Pakistan who is 8-foot-3 and weighs almost 400 pounds.

Los Angeles Times



She's Only 33 Inches — But Mom Stands 10 Feet Tall

She's only 33½ inches tall, but Gloria Hurd is a real giant. Twice she's risked her life giving birth to 18½-inch-long babies . . . each more than half as long as she is!

"I'm the happiest woman in the world! I've got my two wonderful children and I'm as tall as I ever need to be," declares 30-year-old Gloria.

"What I want my kids to learn from me is this: It doesn't matter if you're handicapped.

"Whatever you want to do in this world, you can do it if you keep driving and never quit."

Today both of Gloria's children — 6-year-old Anthony and 2½-year-old Andrea — are taller than their mother.

"My mom's the biggest little person I ever saw," Anthony told The ENQUIRER. "I don't care about her being little. She can do the same things other people can do, and even better sometimes. I'm really proud of my mom and I love her!"

But if Gloria had listened to doctors, neither Anthony nor Andrea would be alive today.

"There was a lot of serious risk that having either of these children could have killed me," Gloria told The ENQUIRER. "Before Anthony was born, I went to a specialist and he suggested that I abort the baby! Imagine that! How could I abort him, after I had already heard his heartbeat?

"I knew that was my baby and I was determined to have him, whatever the cost."

Gloria's small size created all kinds of problems. Anesthesia was a major one — and Gloria also needed to deliver by cesarean section.

"They told me I couldn't have complete anesthesia because the effect on the child might be too heavy and cause problems like mental retardation," she remembered.

"They didn't tell me until the night before. And then my doctor left the choice up to me. He said, 'We can put you to sleep so you won't feel any pain, but your baby might be born with something wrong.'"

So, at Gloria's request, the cesarean was performed with only local novocaine as an anesthetic.

"I was in agony," she said. "The pain was incredible."

But later Gloria went through the same pain all over again to give birth to Andrea. Dr. David Wallace, the Cleveland obstetrician who delivered both babies, told The ENQUIRER, "Gloria has the heart of a giant. She's an extraordinary woman and a really fine mother."

Gloria and her family now live in the Tampa Bay, Fla., area. She has turned her back on a successful show business career and refused to appear in high-paying TV commercials.

"I vowed that I was not going to use my kids for profit," said Gloria, whose husband Clarence is normal size. "I turned down hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of advertising work endorsing diapers or other infant gear."

Today, Anthony — whose incredible birth story was reported in The ENQUIRER in 1976 — towers 18 inches above his mother. But there are no discipline problems, she said. "He underweighs me by five pounds.



LONG ON LOVE: She stands shorter than a yardstick, but 6-year-old son Anthony looks up to his pint-sized mom.

If he's doing something he's not supposed to do, I just knock the hell out of him.

"I taught both kids from the beginning — they're the tallest but I'm the

biggest, and what I say goes. I'm the boss here."

Andrea — who weighs 35 pounds and stands about 36 inches — is 2½ inches taller than her mother. Andrea



BIGHEARTED Gloria doesn't let small size stop her when it comes to raising children.

loves to be carried. "I do it sometimes, but it's pretty hard when her legs are dangling down to my ankles," Gloria said. "The only thing I regret about being a dwarf is that the kids grow up only too fast. It happens to everyone who has kids, but with me, it happens sooner."

"They forget that their mother is a dwarf sometimes. I get the stool out and get up on the counter to put dishes away and then one of the kids will want the stool and run in and get it. There I am, stranded, hollering for them to bring the stool back!"

"Sometimes I'm mistaken for another kid. I hear people say, 'Look at those little kids going across the street!'"

"I'm getting gray-haired now and people say I should dye my hair, but if I did, how could they tell me apart from the kids?"

Being a mother "is a blessed gift," Gloria said. "Those of us who have been allowed to take part in childbirth should show abundant love to our children. God has been very good to me. He not only gave me my children and a happy life, but He sees to it that there is a lot of love in this house."

"And I wouldn't trade all that to be as tall as the Empire State Building!"

Dr. Victor McKusick, chairman of the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, says it's "very, very rare" for a dwarf woman to have two normal-sized children. "This lady is one in a hundred million!"

— JOHN BLOSSER

NATIONAL ENQUIRER

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5-18-82



Dr. Steven Kopits rubs noses with Benji DuGoff, 3½, a dwarfism victim walking now, thanks to his friend

Caring surgeon fights dwarfism by remaking tiny, skewed bodies

By Patrick Young
Newhouse News Service

BALTIMORE — Bright lights flood Operating Room 4 at Children's Hospital as Dr. Steven Kopits makes a four-inch incision in the right calf of Edward McAndrew, a 12-year-old suffering from a progressively crippling form of dwarfism.

Over the next four hours, in three separate procedures, Kopits removes nearly an inch of bone from the bowed small bone in McAndrew's lower right leg and left leg. Then, with the aid of a surgical saw and electric drill, Kopits cuts through the left tibia, the big bone of the lower leg, and moves it slightly to realign it.

His aim is to correct the improper weight distribution that is slowly destroying the boy's knee joints, and to eliminate much of the bow from his legs.

"The primary goal is to prevent disability," Kopits explains.

That single sentence sums up his life's work.

For more than a decade, Kopits has worked to prevent the devastating hip and limb deformities that accompany many forms of dwarfism. He has done it almost single-handedly, developing new operations and adapting established procedures to the peculiar problems of his patients.

Those who know him say Kopits is an extraordinary man — an innovative physician whose surgical mastery is more than matched by his compassion and concern. Four years ago he gave up the prestigious job of chief of pediatric orthopedics at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to devote even more time to his patients.

"He is regarded as a mystical figure by many of his patients and their

'He is regarded as a mystical figure by many of his patients and their families'

families, and the people who work with him hold him equally in awe," says William M. Dowd, an Albany, N.Y., newspaper editor whose daughter has been operated on twice by Kopits. "He is a very special person, one of those people you know 100 years from now will have a place in the history books."

"The biggest factor is he really, honestly cares," says Peggy Albert, administrative secretary of the Little People's Research Fund, a non-profit group set up to help support Kopits' work.

"He knows about their home life and their personal life. He's concerned if they are not doing well in school. It's not a job for him. He does it for the love of it, and it comes through."

"He is deeply religious," adds Diane Davis, a nurse practitioner who works closely with Kopits at Johns Hopkins. "He believes this is what he was made to do. One mother told me, 'He makes every child seem special.'"

The pain and fear caused by the deformities and the surgery to correct them can be great. Kopits is adept at dealing with the psychological problems and the family strains that go along with the medical problems.

"He's gotten to be counselor, priest and doctor to some of these families," Albert says.

A motto that hangs in Kopits' office

reads: "You become responsible forever for what you have tamed."

An estimated 20,000 people in the United States suffer from one of the 80-plus forms of dwarfism. They prefer to be known as little people, and resent being called dwarfs or midgets, words that evoke images of court jesters and sideshow freaks.

"They are terms seen as disparaging to them as human beings," Kopits says.

Kopits has performed 700 operations on about 250 little people. A number of his patients come from overseas.

All but a few forms of dwarfism result from genetic defects in the bone areas where growth originates. Achondroplasia, the most common form of dwarfism, is typified by an unusually large head, narrow spinal canal and short, bowed legs that produce a rolling gait.

Ellis van Creveld Syndrome causes crippling knock-knees.

Kniest Syndrome may result in severely deformed hips and damaged knees.

The list goes on.

Ninety percent of Kopits' surgery is on children. He has operated on some as young as 1 and believes some infants would benefit from surgery as early as six months after birth.

"The deformities occur in most instances until the end of growth," Kopits says. "If you haven't been able to correct them by the time the child stops growing, you are pretty well set up for such serious effects as deformed hips and scoliosis (curvature of the spine)."

Kopits was born in Hungary in 1936, the son and grandson of surgeons. His family escaped the Nazi occupation in 1944 and settled four years later in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

DATEBOOK

Tuesday, July 6, 1982

With a Little Bit Of Pluck

The little lady pictured here, all 31 inches of her, has revealed herself to be the body, if not the brains, behind E.T. in Steven Spielberg's movie.

Tammy De Treaux, 22, plays the stranded-on-earth extra-terrestrial in the non-mechanical — i.e., walking — scenes of the film. Tammy, who lives in the East Bay, is 22 years old, 2 1/2 feet tall and sings for a living when she's not walking on and off spaceships in Culver City. De Treaux, who studied psycholo-

gy at Chabot College and acting at ACT, has a normal-size older brother and sister. She uses blouses as dresses.

Her ambition, besides meeting Ronald Reagan and Red Skelton, is to play Fanny Brice and sit in Rick Springfield's lap. Or vest pocket. In Gerald Nachman's column at left, she discusses her newly discovered extra-terrestrialhood in an exclusive interview with an earth-bound UFO observer.



Photos by Fred Larson

38 San Francisco Chronicle

July 6, 1982

Gerald Nachman

Extra-Special Effect

ET. LIVES IN San Leandro. Her name is Tamara De Treaux, she's 22 years old, very hip, loves Fanny Brice and is less than a yard high.

Tammy played the little lost space boy in the movie, a walk-on for the mechanical version seen in closeups. She's funnier than a special effect. Not only do her eyes roll, her tongue wags.

"I'm a real blabbermouth," she said the other day after scaling a chair in a conference room here, her face peeking over the table top like Lily Tomlin's incredible shrinking woman.

Tammy is as teeny as they come (at 40 pounds, perhaps the smallest person anywhere), but over and above that, she's quick and clever and tries to put awkward big people at ease with wry asides. Spielberg has kept quiet about Tammy's work as E.T. in the walking scenes — coming on the spaceship, fondling flowers, talking to the kids. She was hired when E.T.1 got hurt.

Otherwise, it's Tammy's show, but she's wary of publicizing it. "If people find me, fine, but I don't go to them. People ask if this changed my life. Hey, I'm not on the cover of People." She winks. "Yet."

In a wee chatterbox voice, Tammy declares, "I hope you understand I'm an actress, not just a short person who gets into rubber." Her business card just says "actress." No measurements. She's been in two movies, "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark" on TV and stood in for the kid in "Little Miss Marker." "And where is Sara Simpson now?" snickers Tammy, who studied at ACT and sang with Bud Cort & the Medflies.

TAMMY HANGS OUT AT the Boarding House, where comics say she ought to try, well, stand-up. She's aiming lower. "I have a sit-com mentality," she laughs. "I was enthralled by Klem Kadiddlehopper. I'd be an awful comic. I like real dumb jokes." She told one. Yep, real dumb.

At 31 inches, being noticed was never a big problem, but now she's recognized for reasons other than sitting on a toaster to fix breakfast. Now almost too famous, nobody quite believes she is the E.T. Aunt Tammy's nephew, meanwhile, is capitalizing on his direct line to E.T.

"I haven't talked to Spielberg — you talk to his 'people' — but he feels this movie is very magical and they want to preserve that, which I understand. It's Steven's baby. But I never signed anything keeping me from talking about it."

Security was so tight that "E.T." had fake titles ("Skinhead Goes West"). No press was let in, maybe for fear of meeting E.T. himself. (Itself? E.T.'s gender is vague, like Lassie's.)

Tammy was hired when Spielberg saw her photo in the paper. "My height freaked him out. He didn't know I had training." Not that the part demanded Bette Davis. "It's all direction. I just put on the suit and it fit. It's very tight. Ever wrap yourself in cellophane?"

Acting was limited to "my cute Daffy Duck waddle. I asked to read for the voice, but they wanted it mechanical." Her mother piped, "She walks just like E.T. I wind her up every morning." Tammy cried, "Mother, you're a sicko!"

WHEN I CONFESSED I WASN'T so taken with the movie, Tammy said, "That's OK. I've only seen it twice. I like Barbra Streisand movies."

All pro now, she adds, "I didn't have any points in the film, so I didn't make a lot of money. Who knew it'd be the all-time smash? I don't want to use this. There's a difference between using and taking advantage, as in opening doors. Interviews don't pay the rent."

Tammy doesn't plan to waddle about as E.T. forever, even if she now gets better tables. "I love it to death!" she laughs. At Paprikas Fono, they finally give her as much sour cream as she wants. She craves sour cream like E.T. gobbles M & Ms.

"People say, 'Hey, you're gonna be as famous as R2D2.' All I can think is, 'My God! Where's R2D2 today?' I want to be hired to play a character, not a little person. I've been in the business 10 years. If it doesn't happen now, I better hang up my little shoes."

VIEW



MARSHA TRAEGER / Los Angeles Times

Ginny Brown and Pam Garrison, Colorado teen-agers, celebrate their arrival in Reno, host to 25th Little People of America convention.



Tripping the Light Fantastic

LPA teen-agers, shown at left, enjoyed a special dance, while Pat Bilon, center, who played E.T. in most of movie's scenes, got media attention. Right is fellow Ohioan, Walter Menning, retired steelworker.

The Little People Take a Giant Step

700 Note Organization's Anniversary at Weeklong Convention in Reno

By LYNN SIMROSS, *Times Staff Writer*

RENO—It seems fitting this week that the street banners and hotel and casino marquees of this gambling town in the Sierra foothills should say, Welcome Little People of America. For this is where the LPA started 25 years ago, and the little people have come back to celebrate the anniversary of the organization that brought many of them together.

In 1957, Reno, which likes to call itself "the Biggest Little City in the World," hosted 21 little people. This week, about 700 of them, their relatives and friends have jammed Harrah's Hotel, the convention headquarters, and filled the sidewalks of downtown Reno.

By Plane, Bus, Car

They came by plane, bus and car from all over the country and Canada, preteen-agers to septuagenarians. Some brought golf clubs for a tournament Thursday. Others carried jackets and heavy sweaters in anticipation of the cool weather during an evening cruise and picnic at Lake Tahoe, 1½ hours drive south. Members of the Hollywood Shorties basketball team carried a fish net filled with basketballs. They would play a celebrity game at the University of Nevada/Reno on Sunday afternoon.

Those who would be conducting workshops, programs for teenagers, preteens and parents and senior citizens brought briefcases of notes, slides and films for their presentations.

Those in charge of logistics and convention planning already had checked to see if stools were available to LPA members who needed them in their rooms. The hotel management, said one member, "has been fantastic in making accommodations for us."

Founded by Billy Barty

Harrah's has set up two three-step ramps so the conventioners could register in and check out easily. It installed rubber-tipped poles beneath each elevator button; temporary steps inside every elevator. There are extra stools for the slot machine players and a small platform has been set up at one of the craps tables for shorter players.

"We've come a long way, and we'll keep going," said actor Billy Barty, who founded the Little People of America organization while he was in Reno appearing with the Spike Jones band.

Barty, at 57, is probably the best-known little person in the country, perhaps the world, because of his

film and TV roles as an actor-comedian. (He was unable to stay the full week of the convention—it ends Friday—because of a commitment to film a segment of "Little House on the Prairie.") He has seen the LPA grow from 21 members to 3,000 in 12 districts of the United States. And similar groups have been started in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Japan.

Before the LPA, little people had no lobby, no organized group attempting to educate bigger people in understanding just what they are all about. That they are just like everyone else, only smaller.

Little people, as any one of them will tell you, often have suffered humiliation and discrimination at the hands of bigger ones, whom they prefer to call average-size people.

The average-size people called them freaks and midgets, stared at them or tried not to look at them at all. They built a world out of reach: sinks and showers, telephone booths, elevator buttons. They excluded them from many kinds of jobs because of their size.

"We have been stomped on and everything else," said Maurice Alden of Hawthorne. "But the worst thing is that because our growth is stunted, they think our minds are, too."

Attending Since 1960

Alden, an electrical/mechanical technician at Hughes Aircraft, has been attending LPA conventions since 1960. He met his wife Marjorie at the convention in Las Vegas that year.

In the past, little people also were exploited because of their height. They were placed in circuses and sideshows, hired as leprechauns on St. Patrick's Day, given jobs as hotel pages with the billing of "special attractions." As late as the 1960s, little people were hired by the Chicago White Sox management to work as vendors in the box-seat section of its baseball stadium, with the rationale that average-size patrons could see over their heads.

But much of this is changing, thanks to the efforts of a great body of little people who make up the LPA.

"We're the smallest of the minorities, not only in stature, but numerically," said Walter Menning, an LPA member from Youngstown, Ohio. "We're only about 3,000, so for political clout, forget it. But little people do have a better chance now."

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LITTLE PEOPLE: Giant Step

Continued from First Page

This type of organization has been very helpful. We're getting away from the time when if you had a dwarf in the family, you locked him in the closet."

Menning, a 70-year-old retired steelworker, joined the Little People of America in 1971, because he thought he might be of some assistance to others. "A lot of people are really bitter about the way people have treated them," he said. "When you get together and talk about it, you find you can help out. You can't live in this world with a chip on your shoulder."

LPA, says Menning, has also given a lot of little people better opportunities for jobs through education. "I think little people are getting a better chance. I graduated from high school in 1930, right in the Depression. There were all these big people out of work. Do you think they were going to hire a little person like me? I went to an amusement park and got a job guessing weights. I worked there for 11 years, before I finally got a job in a steel mill."

A survey of occupations of little people attending the Reno convention bears out Menning's words.

When Barty started the LPA, most of the original members were show business friends from the Los Angeles area. Today, only 1% of its members are in show business. More numerous among the organization's membership are accountants, social workers, secretaries, teachers, computer technicians, engineers, mechanics, shopkeepers and salespersons.

Like any other growing organization, LPA itself is undergoing change. What began largely as a social group, informally helping each other in a get-together each year, has taken on a support structure of workshops and added a medical advisory staff to its yearly agenda.

"People come to socialize, to have a reunion," Barty said. "But we also have a serious side in helping each other, with workshops on subjects like employment, dating, family planning."

Andre Boursse and Annis Arthur, both of Mountain View, Calif., have been working on the LPA workshops for almost a year, setting up various types of programs to be held, coordinating people who will conduct them.

"This is a formal mechanism for us to learn and to share," said Arthur, an equal opportunity specialist for the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services. "In the past, the emphasis has been on social—dancing, tours, etc. The workshops were started about five years ago and are becoming an important part. Of 3,000 members, every person has a different need. Sure, some people won't come, but there is a need for these workshops, and it has been expressed."

"What do you do when you go back to Podunk after a week here?" Boursse asked. "And you have to deal with practical stuff that happens every day. Everything in the workshops has gone on and people are willing to talk about it, to share."

Boursse, 34, has been a member of LPA since he was 11 years old. His parents, who are average-size people, heard about the organization and decided to attend. "We had fun," he said. "But there were a lot of questions I had that weren't being dealt with."

When Boursse was a youngster, little was known of dwarfism. Although it is estimated that there are more than 100,000 people in the United States who are dwarfs, only in recent years have doctors begun to do extensive research and



MARSHA TRAEGER / Los Angeles Times

Maurice and Marjorie Alden married after meeting at convention.

to categorize about 100 kinds of dwarfism. Many members of LPA participate annually in hospital studies and research projects.

The most common kind of dwarfism is called acondroplasia, in which the arm and leg bones do not grow proportionately with the body. It is an irreversible condition.

Pituitary dwarfism, a condition that causes the entire body to remain proportionately small, is caused by a lack of pituitary growth hormones during childhood. In the past few years, doctors

have been able to successfully inject some pituitary dwarfs who are diagnosed early on with a human growth hormone and increase their height.

"My parents, I'm sure, found peer support, as in any organization," said Boursse. "But what we're doing now is providing structure to our experiences. The emphasis is changing just because of the input that has changed. There have been cultural changes all over the United States in 20 years. There is movement toward being an individual, but also finding a certain niche for yourself. LPA has paralleled that."

Both Arthur and Boursse, who works as human services director for an independent living center in the Bay Area, believe that members of their age group are looking at LPA as more than a social group. "We're seeing the changes," Arthur, 31, said. "Like every other organization, it evolves."

Workshops, conducted all day Tuesday, were not open to the public, or to the media. "They are only for the benefit of little people," Arthur explained.

On Sunday, Jim and Yvonne Farrington, a young average-size couple from Concord, Calif., were getting ready to conduct their upcoming workshop, aimed for all parents with preteen short-statured children. Their co-leaders were to be Len and Lenette Sawisch.

The Farringtons were a bit nervous, they admitted, because they had had in-

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July 28, 1982

Los Angeles Times

LITTLE PEOPLE

Continued from Second Page

formal discussions with other members of the San Francisco chapter to which they belong, but never run a formal workshop.

The Farringtons planned to tell other people of their first-hand experiences in dealing with a short-statured child. Their oldest daughter, Yvette, is now 12, and a member of the pre-teen group of little people. Their other daughter, Dana, 10 is of average size.

"A lot of the things we're going to discuss we have done," said Jim Farrington, a sergeant on the Oakland police force. "Good and bad things. Sometimes there is a tendency to be overprotective. One of the concerns we had was how her peer group would treat her. There is a tendency to want to baby her. It's hard sometimes for an average size person to treat a little person by their chronological age, as opposed to size."

"I have had to stop myself sometimes in being over-protective of Yvette," said Yvonne. "If someone asked

her a question I would answer for her. Then I realized what I was doing and stopped."

On her part, Yvette, a charming young girl, just wishes that "people would quit asking me questions. They stare at you, ask how old you are. They ask how old your parents were when you were born. I say, 'tough luck,' and don't answer when they ask that."

The Farringtons, who have been involved with LPA since Yvette was 8 months old, say they expect to learn as much as they may teach in their workshop. "We're here to learn, too," Jim said. "We feel very strongly about LPA, that it has been extremely helpful to all of us."

Late one evening, Pat Bilon and his friend, Walter Menning, sat at a dollar roulette table in Harrah's, socializing with other little people conventioners. Bilon, 34, also from Youngstown, is the current media star of the 25th anniversary celebration. Bilon is the little person who played the majority of E.T.'s scenes in Steven Spielberg's movie, and is reveling in the attention to-

ward him, smiling and shaking hands with well-wishers.

When he spoke of LPA and its motives, though, the talk turned serious as he described the hurts of little people. "It is trying, at times, I'll admit that. But I've gotten used to it. When we were younger, it was harder to ignore. But that's why we belong to LPA, to educate people into understanding us. To attempt to get barrier-free architecture. The average-size little person (less than 4 feet tall) is about the size of a paraplegic in a wheelchair, so all their efforts, those of the disabled, have been helpful to little people."

Bilon, at 2 feet, 10 inches, is one of the smallest LPA members. He is used to climbing on boxes and stools, he said, to reach things that other little people have no trouble with.

"Things are getting better for little people," Bilon said. "But we're doing it ourselves. We don't have enough money to buy lobbyists for our cause. We have to get out there ourselves."

Upstairs, after the teen dance for which she served as

supervisor, Ginny Brown was talking about the special problems of being a teen-age little person.

"If you're small, you don't have much of a social life unless there are other little people around," said Brown, 17, from Colorado Springs. That's why I'm looking at colleges in California, because most of the LPA population is in California. It's the biggest district."

The special problems for teen-agers, according to Brown, LPA's national teen coordinator, begin in junior high, at age 12 or 13. "People start taking an interest in the opposite sex, worry about what they wear, how they look, what people think of them. There are cliques and you feel left out. It's not an easy time," she explained.

"But it all depends on your attitude. Life can be awful if you let it be. Or you can have a positive attitude and make things better. If there is nobody to dance with, then you can still be a part of the dance by working on scenery or lights, or something."

Brown's positive attitude convinced her friend Pam Garrison, also a member of the Denver Chapter of LPA, to attend her first convention.

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LITTLE PEOPLE

Continued from Third Page

"Ginny kept talking it up, but at first I didn't want to go," said Garrison, 19, a hairdresser in her hometown of Arvada. "The first time I saw a whole bunch of little people together I was shocked. My first reaction was that all these people are my height. My parents are average size. I am the only little person in our family as far back as the Mayflower. I always felt short, but not little."

Buoyed by Brown's enthusiasm and encouragement, Garrison came to Reno and admitted she was having the time of her life. She attended workshops with Brown, listened to plans for a ski trip for little people teen-agers, attended shows at casinos and danced with other little people teen-agers.

"Dancing is something that little people love to do," said Ginny Brown. "Because unless there are others around, you don't get much of a chance. Dancing, for us, is a delicacy."



AP PHOTO

Showing a little appreciation

Ric Nicholson of Harrah's hotel-casino leads cheers for "the little people" Friday in Reno. The Nevada

city, which advertises itself as the biggest little city in the world, was host this week to the 25th annual

convention of The Little People of America. About 650 shorties attended.

Short in height, tall in heart

By MARVIN WAMBLE

James Stewart didn't realize there was something "different" about his mother until his first day of kindergarten about 12 years ago.

When his mother took him to class that day, "everyone was staring at her," he said with a voice that registered the confusion he must have felt. "I thought, 'What's wrong with my mom?'"

It was the first time he really noticed that his mother, who is 3 feet 10 inches tall, was not the same height as the other parents.

"My teacher thought it was cute that I had to bend down to kiss my mother goodbye," he recalled.

Nowadays, Stewart is a leggy 6-footer who says his mother's height "doesn't affect me. She's just my mom."

Adaptation in a family that has a dwarf as a parent or child comes quickly, according to several family members who are in Reno this week for the Little People of America Inc. convention. They insist their families face the same trials and tribulations as any other family unit — with a few small exceptions.

Stewart said he has learned to "curve" his aggressions toward others' reactions to his mother's size.

"It's fine if a little kid comes up in the store and looks at her," said Stewart, a 17-year-old bass player in a punk rock band in his hometown of Cerritos, Calif. "But some of them have to follow her around the store or go get more kids. The next thing you know, there is a whole parade of kids following her around the store yelling, 'Midget, midget.' That gets me mad."

"If their parents would just sit them down and take the time to explain to them why people are different, there would be a lot less prejudice," he said.

Stewart has to watch out for his mother at times, because "she tends to have a big mouth," he said, looking down on his mother as they sat in Harrah's convention center.

"You've heard of the overly protective mother," said Betty Stewart, 52, a divorced mother whose other son, 13-year-old Billy, is a dwarf. "Well, this is the overly protective son."

As for his friends, "I just introduce her," Stewart said. "If they don't like it, they don't have to come over. But all my friends like my mom — they call her Mom. They don't care if she is small or tall or whatever."

Mrs. Stewart's height doesn't bother her, either.

"I never considered myself being small," she said. "The group of people I hang out with are all of average stature and I always dated taller people. When



PHOTO BY JEAN DIXON

Betty Stewart is flanked by her sons, Billy, left, and James.

you are born with this handicap, you learn to adapt."

Mrs. Stewart drives a large Oldsmobile (with the help of brake and accelerator extensions). "I love big cars," she said.

"It's a psychological thing," Stewart teasingly interjected.

There was no great debate or visit to a genetic counselor when the Stewarts, who were married for 13 years, decided to have children. "Everyone knows the chances of it (having a dwarf) happening. But neither one of us gave it a thought," said Mrs. Stewart. Her husband was 5 feet 6, her mother and one sister are small, and her father, brother and other sister are "average size." (Little people prefer using "average" rather than "normal.")

"I don't think we cared one way or another," she said. "We had a healthy child and we were happy."

Mrs. Stewart also raised five "average" step-children.

For Dr. Don Jewett and his wife, who are both average size, having a dwarf child came as quite a shock.

"It was very hard," explained Jewett, who works at the University of San Francisco Medical Center. He explained that in most cases dwarfism cannot be detected until a child is about 3 years old.

"She was an average-length baby when she was born. But when I stopped

plotting her growth, she stopped growing," he said.

"Maybe that was the problem," said his daughter, Bethany, 17. "Maybe you shouldn't have stopped plotting." They both laughed.

"It was a great shock to me. I suppose I had the usual parent reaction: 'This is a terrible thing to happen to my child and what can I do about it?'" he said.

But Jewett, who has been associated with L.P.A. for 10 years, no longer feels that way.

"I don't think it's terrible. Basically, we all have abnormalities. I may be an emotional dwarf. There are people who can't go into a group and feel comfortable; that is also a form of dwarfism."

Jewett, who was married 25 years before his divorce and also has an average-sized 19-year-old daughter, prepared Bethany for some problems and questions she might face because of her size.

If someone asked Bethany why she was so small, her answer might be, "Why do you have blue eyes?" or "I donated my legs for a leg transplant."

One of the biggest questions the Jewetts faced was, "Will this affect what our child can do?"

The answer came when they attended their first L.P.A. meeting. They met little people who were doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. "It became clear that this was not going to stop our child from going on."

Bethany is now a senior at Lick-Willmerding High School in San Francisco. She wants to study psychobiology at a university in Oregon or in the East.

Bethany, who has had several operations, said she has learned to accept her size because "I'm pretty extroverted to begin with and it all depends on how you feel about yourself."

Carl and Darlene McGregor felt great about each other when they met during a St. Patrick's Day party in Alameda, Calif.

Mrs. McGregor, who is 4 feet 1, was out "having a good time" with another little person. McGregor (5 feet 8), who had dated Darlene's friend, said he sat down and started "a little small talk."

"That was in March and we didn't start dating until July," said Mrs. McGregor. After several months, the couple went to a Little People of America convention in Las Vegas and got married. That was 14 years and two children ago.

McGregor said his wife's size had "no play in our meeting. It's difficult to explain, but she's just a woman like anyone else. It's just like you marrying a woman who is a few inches shorter than you."

A marriage between an average-sized person and a dwarf is called a "mixed marriage." McGregor said he did have some "fear" concerning what his parents' reaction might be when they found out he had married a dwarf. "But no comment was ever made."

Mrs. McGregor got plenty of negative feedback. "I had problems with other little people," she said. "They wanted little people to marry little people. They said the marriage wouldn't last, but there are divorces among little people, too."

She said the general feeling among dwarfs was that an average-sized person would only marry a dwarf "because of the novelty."

"That attitude has changed," she said. "But there was a lot of animosity toward mixed marriages."

Their children, ages 9 and 13, are taller than their mother. "They can get out of hand," she admitted. "It's great when he is around the house. I can't run after them or anything like that. I have to use my mouth."

"When they were smaller, I had a little more control, now they have a mind of their own."

Mrs. Stewart drew the conclusion mentioned by all the families: "There really isn't any difference between little people and other people. Once people realize there is no difference, we won't be a novelty."

"After all, we eat, drink and sleep just like everyone else."

Nevada State Journal 7-29-82



The Associated Press

Little People conventioners give themselves a cheer in 'the biggest little city in the world'

The Little People stand table-tall at Reno convention

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Engineers, actors, attorneys and hundreds of others who stand no higher than a hotel reception desk gathered here to celebrate the 25th year of an organization that teaches little people they too can think big.

Harrah's hotel-casino built a platform at one craps table. And, so the 650 people who came from all over the nation to the Little People of America convention could reach the elevator buttons, the hotel provided rubber-tipped wands.

There was dancing for teen-agers, softball, a basketball game and time for sightseeing at the anniversary meeting this week. And there were workshops on genetics, jobs, schools and clothing.

"The purpose of the organization is to let little people and their parents come to grips with their short stature," said Lee Kitchens, a 52-year-old engineering manager with Texas Instruments in Lubbock, Texas, and a past president of the Little People of America.

He said that by helping them accept themselves as they are, the organization seeks to let little people "move out into society and become productive, useful citizens."

A quarter of a century ago, dwarfs were rejected by public schools and opportunities for jobs outside circuses were limited.

Today they are doctors and lawyers and members of other professions, but they are still struggling to be accepted by "average" people — a word they prefer to "normal."

"Short stature does not automatically mean that we are short on brain power," Kitchens said. "It's a genetic snafu. It's no different from red hair or blue eyes."

The organization was born in Reno, the invention of actor Billy Barty, and began with about 20 members. It now has more than 3,000.

"The most significant thing that a little person has to do is to be able to accept himself for his own net worth and to consider in context the statements and comments made by others," Kitchen said.

"Most of the comments you get right now as you walk down the street are from children, who are very honest; old people who are uninhibited; and the stupid and insensitive," Kitchens said.

Harrah's sought to avoid being insensitive. The hotel-casino installed ramps to the registration desk and lowered shower heads. Bob Martin, the vice president and general manager, said, "We're keeping an eye on the incidental things, like providing stools in the casino area whenever needed."

Members of the Little People come from all ethnic backgrounds and range in age from babies to people in their 70s. All are under 4-foot-10. Barty is 3-foot-9, Kitchens is 4-foot-1.

Proportioned dwarfs, incorrectly called midgets, usually are victims of malfunctioning pituitary glands, said Dr. Clair Francomano, a Johns Hopkins Hospital medical resident training in genetics. Most disproportioned dwarfs, who have short limbs but average-sized trunks, have achondroplasia, a failure of cartilage to form properly.

A score of medical specialists are here to counsel the little people and to study them. A medical advisory board hopes to develop centers in various parts of the country to treat little people.

"If we can make the general public aware that little people are no different from anyone else, in their wants and their hopes and their desires..." Kitchens said, "we will have overcome most barriers — barriers actually in the observer."

Little People

Durham Herald 7-31-82

Not Short On Brains Or Ambition

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"SHORT STATURE

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Brian Luna, center, plays cards with two of his friends.

Times-Post

Brian Luna Learned How To Be Brave

Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service

WEST COVINA, Calif. — Alex Luna vividly recalls how he found out that his 4-month-old son, Brian, would always remain a little person. Barbara, his wife, sobbing so hard she could not speak, handed him a card with the pediatrician's two-word diagnosis: "Achondroplastic dwarf."

Brian Luna is one of America's estimated 100,000 "little people," so nicknamed for their stature.

In a series of aftershocks to the disturbing diagnosis seven years ago, Alex and Barbara learned there was little information available on dwarfism and much trouble ahead for their son — physical abuse, merciless teasing, staring and the persistent belief that people who share his disability are retarded.

Alex and Brian turned for help to Little People of America, the organization founded in 1957 by actor Billy Barty, which in turn referred the Lunas to the University of California, Los Angeles Short Stature Clinic at Harbor General Hospital and Dr. David Rimoin. Rimoin said Brian suffers from a congenital bone disease. "There are hundreds of causes of dwarfism — some are genetic and others are glandular."

Rimoin also explained that there are two types of dwarf, proportionate and disproportionate. Physicians do not recognize the word "midget," he said.

Repaying their debt to the association, Alex and Brian have visited little people and their parents "just to talk and make them aware,"

Alex said. They have appeared on television interview shows as well. "I want to make sure other parents in our position did not have to go through what we did," he said.

Although Alex, a 38-year-old Southern California Gas Co. supervisor who lives in West Covina, and Barbara, 34, and a secretary from nearby Covina, were divorced when Brian was 5 years old, they continue to share the desire that "Brian have outgoing, positive role models," Alex said.

Brian's friends at the association were able to help the Lunas when their son ran into his first real problem at school last year. "I wanted Brian to go to public schools to learn the system and to have friends. Some teachers suggested special schools. That's a lot of baloney. I'm not going to hide him away," Alex said.

But school involved difficulties. Barbara said Brian would come home distraught. "The first two weeks of school were absolute hell," she said. Some of the other children were constantly hitting and teasing Brian.

Alex asked Barty to speak to the children at the school. Barty agreed and brought Tommy Madden and Tony Cox, two other actors who are also little people. The three spoke at an assembly. Barbara said the results were "absolutely wonderful. The children treat Brian like anyone else now, and the teachers understand more about him."

Madden and Brian became fast friends as a result of the assembly. The 35-year-old actor visits Brian regularly. "So many average-sized parents shun their children when they discover they have a little person. They put

them in closets and totally disown them," Madden said.

"Parents must understand and help their children to understand that they are not dwarfs or midgets or freaks. They're little people," Madden said.

At the same time, Madden said, little people must learn they will be patted on the head and must prepare for a lifetime of weight-watching and chronic back and leg problems.

"It's important for children like Brian to learn very young what to expect from the rest of the world," Madden said, "and you can't fight it. You have to learn to accept it or you'll wind up with a tremendous chip on your shoulder. Unfortunately, that's not uncommon among little people."

His son has learned from Madden, Alex said. "Brian can deal with quite a bit now. He's full of questions about his body, his clothes, his future . . . everything," Alex said his daughter, Laurie, 15, and Robert Sylvester, a young friend, have been a great help with Brian.

With a low front door knob, strategically placed stepping stools and an extended light switch in the bathroom, Brian is on his own at home. "He does everything any other 7-year-old would do — he just moves chairs around to get into things," Barbara said, "but he is very sensitive about hurting another's feelings."

Brian has his own, 7-year-old philosophy. "You can't be chicken, you gotta be brave, but sometimes you gotta ignore 'em, too," he said while trying to peek at his friend's cards. Then Brian looked up, pondering a sober thought.

"I'm just like everyone else," he said, "I'm just littler."

Deaths

MARY M. ANDERSON

Mary M. Anderson, 88, of San Bruno, died Sunday in Millbrae. She was a native of Wisconsin, had resided in this area for many years and was a charter member of Little People of America.

Survivors include a sister, Etta Fredell of Seattle, Wash.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the San Bruno Funeral Home in San Bruno, with private entombment at Sunset Mausoleum in Berkeley.

FILM FESTIVAL

'Little People,' Story Of 200,000 U.S. Dwarfs

By VINCENT CANBY

Including documentary films in the New York Film Festival, where the emphasis is on fiction, is, I suppose, a good thing, but it's also somewhat unfair to the documentaries and to fiction. A documentary, to be of interest, doesn't have to work in the same way that a fiction film does.

Given a certain level of technical competence and a commitment to a subject, a documentary sometimes succeeds in a fashion that can make art beside the point. A documentary film about the nuclear arms buildup would have to be very, very sloppy not to elicit some sort of gut reaction from anyone who sees it.

Occasionally there are superior documentaries like Marcel Ophüls's "The Sorrow and the Pity," Peter Davis's "Hearts and Minds" and Barbara Kopple's "Harlan County, U.S.A." that are as important for their use of cinema as for what they are about. However, documentary film journalism is too important to be judged principally by a neat turn of film phrase.

There seems to have been an unusual number of documentaries at this year's New York Film Festival, none great in any esthetic sense but all noteworthy for one reason or another. The latest is "Little People," by Jan Krawitz and Thomas Ott, which will be shown at Lincoln Center tonight at 9 o'clock.

"Little People" is about dwarfs and dwarfism, words that are used without embarrassment or apology by the film makers and the dwarfs who are the subject of the film, which is an able, educational, sometimes moving and, on a couple of occasions, blithely funny film.

In the United States today there are an estimated 200,000 "Little People," which is what they sometimes call themselves, though the preferred medical term for anyone 4 feet 10 inches or under is dwarf. There are, we are told, 80 different types of dwarf, including those whose bodies are "proportionate," who are in the

The Cast

LITTLE PEOPLE, directed, produced and edited by Jan Krawitz and Thomas Ott; photography by Mr. Ott; music by Randy Arneson. At Alice Tully Hall, part of the 20th New York Film Festival. Running time: 88 minutes. This film is not rated.
WITH: Tina and George Beahn, Karla Eastburg, Marthe Holland, Lee and Mary Kitchens, Dr. Steven Kopits, Beth and Jim Lovess, Meinhardt and Marie Reabe, Kiffy and Gerald Raza, Ron and Sharon Roskamp, Leonard Sawisch, Mark Trombino and Robert Van Etten.

minority, and those whose bodies are "disproportionate." "Midget," a word that has its origins in 19th-century circuses and sideshows, describes the "proportionate" dwarf.

Miss Krawitz and Mr. Ott have been lucky in finding more than a dozen articulate persons to be interviewed. Among them are a remarkably staunch little 11-year-old boy, Mark Trombino; a longtime Hollywood actor, Billy Barty; a pretty 16-year-old schoolgirl, Karla Eastburg; and, in particular, Len Sawisch, a physically tiny, extremely bright consulting psychologist, a fellow who can deliver one-liners with the best of them.

"I feel a kinship with blacks," Mr. Sawisch says at one point, "but when they tell me their people have been slaves for 200 years, I tell them my people have been given away as gifts for 2,000."

Mr. Sawisch's remarks are mercilessly tough as well as funny. The film makers attend the annual convention of the Little People of America, listen to little people who are making their way successfully in a world that is forever out of scale to them and, in the most affecting sequence, record the last hours of a baby born to dwarf parents in which the dominant dwarf genes have combined for fatal effect.

The nicest thing about "Little People" is the indomitability it salutes. Little Mark Trombino, cheerfully discussing the advantages and disadvantages of his size, says that though bike riding and sports are impossible he is very good at hide-and-seek.



AP Wirephoto

Busted Dream

Danny Hirsch yesterday held the toy safe that burglars emptied of \$141, the money that the wheelchair-bound 13-year-old had saved to buy video games. The thieves also took Danny's TV. The video games the Los Angeles boy had hoped to buy are among the only games he can play because his disease — osteogenesis imperfecta — has left his body dwarfed and his bones fragile.

Little men who think BIG

Twin dwarfs planned to be millionaires

By JENNIFER BOETH

Staff Writer

BETWEEN THEM, Greg and John Rice stand 6 feet tall. That's 3 feet each.

They're dwarfs and twins, and neither fact has slowed them down yet. Millionaires at the age of 30, the Rice brothers already have pursued three successful careers, in cosmetic sales, real estate and investments, and they're scrambling rapidly up career ladders No. 4 and 5: giving motivational pep talks and emceeing a television quiz show.

They're bringing their "Think Big" talk to the State Fair Coliseum in Dallas Oct. 28, as part of a "Positive Living Event" featuring Dr. Norman Vincent Peale.

Greg and John Rice grew up on the shabby side of West Palm Beach, Florida, close enough to smell the wealth and power behind the high iron gates of the mansions on the beach. It was a heady bouquet.

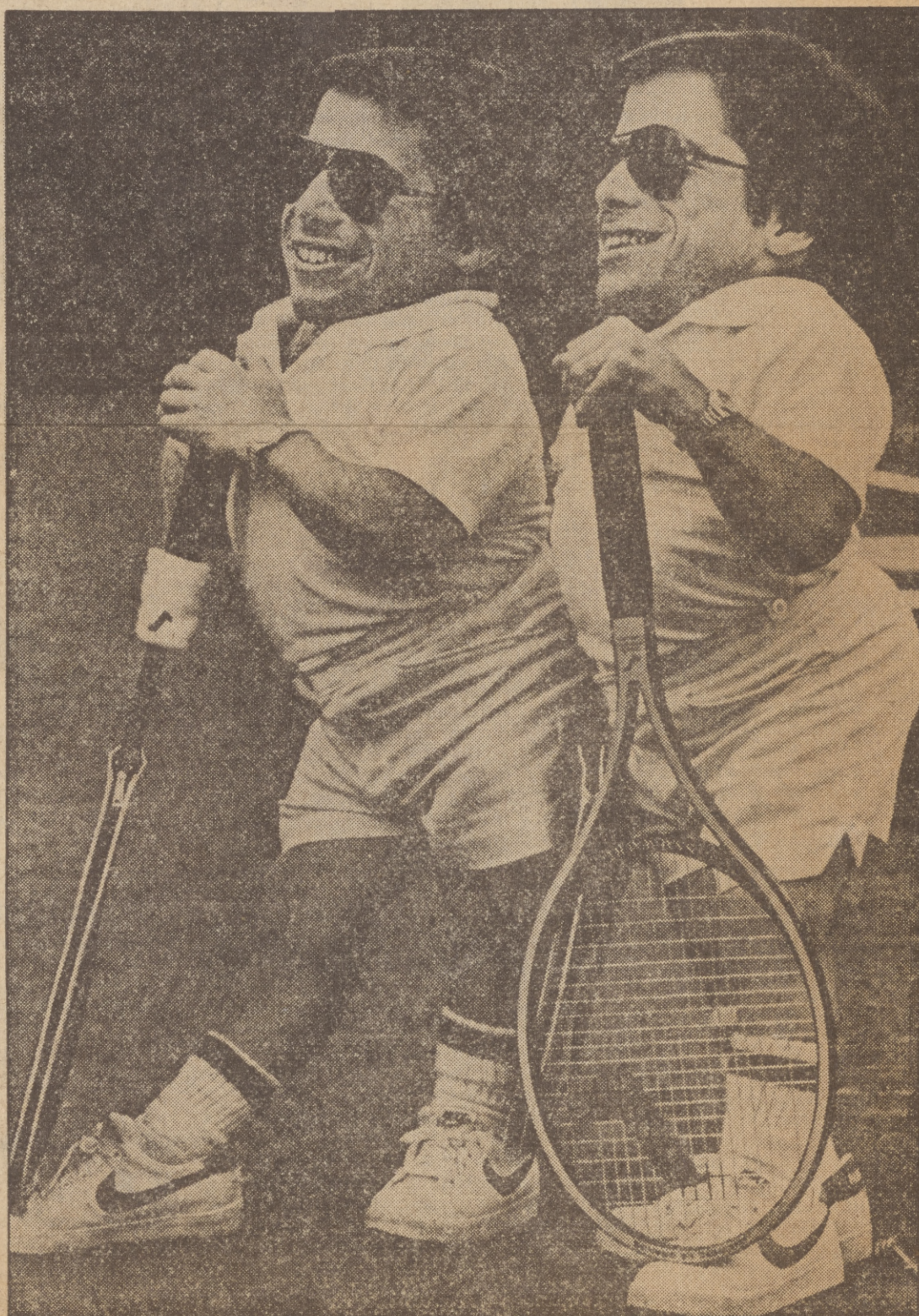
"I was fascinated by those big houses, those fancy cars," Greg recalls. "I decided I wanted to have all that. Some kids see a firetruck and they say, 'I want one of those,' and that's the end of it. Not me."

During their last semester of high school, the Rice twins set themselves a goal: to be millionaires by their 10th high school class reunion. And when the Palm Beach High School Class of 1969 reconvened in 1979, among its ranks were a couple of pint-sized millionaires, Greg and John Rice.

Many of their classmates were surprised. "If there was anyone who wasn't supposed to make it, it was John and myself," Greg grins.

They did have a long way to go. Born in 1951 to young parents who couldn't face the prospect of raising a pair of club-foot dwarfs, Greg and John were abandoned in the hospital where they were born. The couple they call their parents, Frank and Mildred Windsor, took them in as foster children nine months later.

Frank Windsor worked hard all his life, but he never could get ahead. Finally the aluminum-window manufacturer that employed him for years moved to Georgia, and Windsor ended up a janitor for the Palm Beach schools.



See TWINS on Page 6

John, left, and Greg Rice are twin dwarfs who enjoy tennis and swimming

Rice twins 'think big' when it comes to business

TWINS — From Page One

The Rice twins were still in grade school when Mildred Windsor developed cancer. "She fought it for years; she was terribly afraid that if she died, the state would take us away from our father," Greg recalls. When the boys were in eighth grade, their foster mother died. Broken-hearted, Frank Windsor also developed cancer and died less than four years later.

The twins moved in with their married sister and her husband, finished high school and started Palm Beach Junior College. They lasted one year.

"We didn't find what we were looking for in college," says Greg.

What they were looking for is something Greg Rice first noticed when his Pentecostal mother took him to revival meetings. He couldn't take his eyes off the evangelists.

What was holding Greg Rice spellbound was not particularly spiritual. "Here were these guys in flashy clothes driving fancy cars and drawing huge crowds. They could make those people do just about anything."

"I realized right then I'd better learn how to run my mouth, because that's all they were doing."

So Greg and John quit college and went off to "run their mouths" selling cosmetics door-to-door. They did so well at it that soon they were recruiting sales personnel for the firm and not long after that, traveling the globe in the company's international operations.

John and Greg still had two years to make good on their 10th class reunion goal when they started selling real estate. Their first year in the business, working as a team and hooking customer after customer with patter about "breathtaking baseboards" and "knee-high shag carpeting," the tiny pair sold 57 homes, grossing more than \$4 million.

They sold real estate for several years, then moved on into investing, "working with people who are too busy generating money to invest it properly." And generating a healthier and healthier bankroll of their own.

They bought Cadillac Seattles, with built-up seats and extenders on the foot pedals. They built a luxurious home on a five-acre estate on the outskirts of West Palm Beach. They bought a racing catamaran, "the largest one we could find."

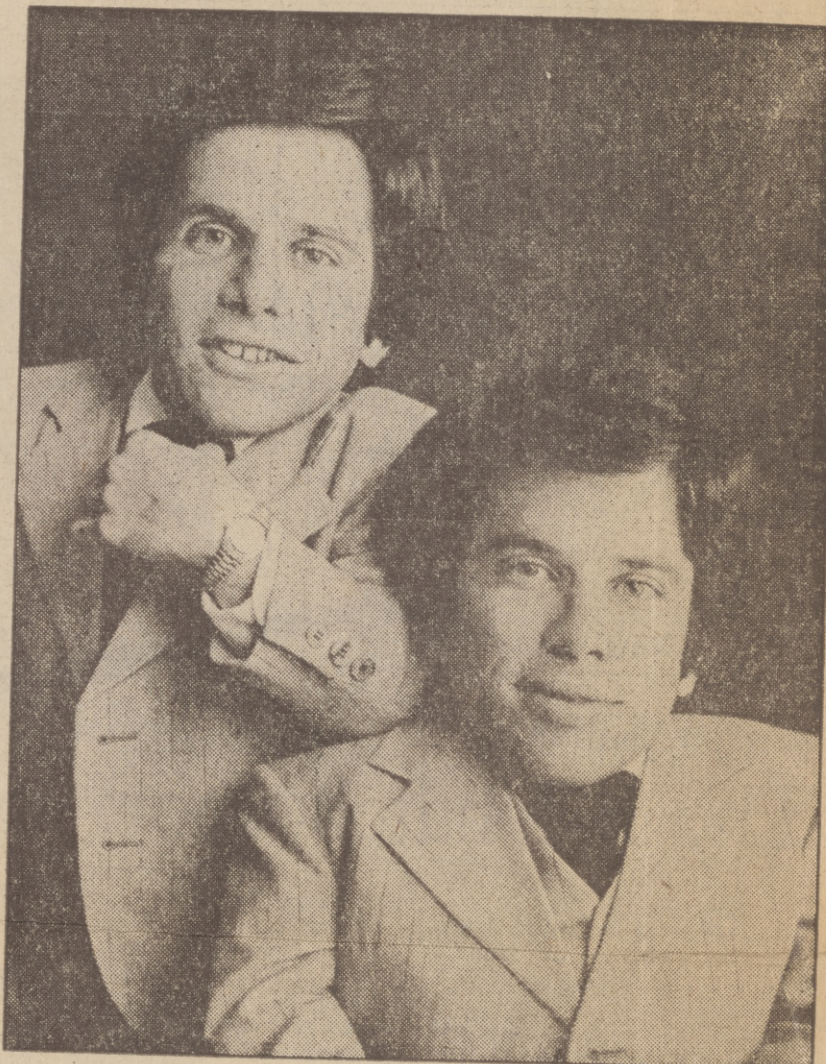
Then they hit the lecture circuit, to share what they regard as the secret of their success with audiences all over the nation.

What is that secret? Greg says the name of the Rice Brothers' organization sums it up: "Think Big."

Greg Rice remembers sitting on a West Palm Beach canal bank as a boy, watching the private planes landing on the successful side of town. "I'd sit there and watch those planes and wonder, 'What makes those people different?'"

Now, at 30, Greg thinks he knows. "It's their attitude. Successful people believe they can accomplish anything by working at it hard enough; they are determined to be the best at whatever they do, and they learn from their mistakes."

John, left, and Greg Rice were millionaires before age 30. 'Successful people,' says Greg, 'believe they can accomplish anything by working at it hard enough. . . . John and I have failed more than we have succeeded. And we've learned something from every one of those failures. It's a question of what you do with your failures.'



John and I have failed more than we have succeeded. And we've learned something from every one of those failures. It's a question of what you do with your failures."

Greg and John Rice give their foster parents most of the credit for their success. "They never treated us as handicapped," Greg explains. "They encouraged us to try anything we wanted to do." And so the twins clambered up on bicycle seats taller than they were and learned to ride. They played tennis, whacking the ball over nets they could barely see over. They learned to swim.

That confounded a medical expert in dwarfism who once talked the twins into an afternoon of testing at Johns Hopkins. "This is a man who has spent his life studying dwarfism. He's responsible for identifying 33 different kinds of dwarfism," says Greg. "He told us we were supposed to have severe hip problems. 'You're not supposed to be able to swim,' he said."

"Well, I guess our parents weren't smart enough to know what we couldn't do, because they encouraged us to do everything. And we can swim, we told him."

That was the last time the Rice brothers

submitted to any kind of testing. "I don't care why we were born this way. It just doesn't interest me. And all the testing in the world can't change John and me," Greg explains. "Besides, if someone offered me a pill that would make me 6 foot 2 right now, I wouldn't take it. This is the greatest thing that could happen to anyone. John and I are probably two of the happiest people in the world."

Which brings us to positive thinking. Greg and John Rice are past masters. "We've created our own happiness," they like to say. "A person is as big as he thinks he is. . . . We feel like a couple of dimes in a bunch of nickels; we may be smaller, but we're worth more. . . . A person is not measured from the top of their head to the bottom of their feet, but from their shoulders to the sky."

You can look at any situation from a positive or negative perspective, the little man observes. "You wake up in the morning and turn on the radio, and the weatherman says there's a 70 percent chance of rain. That makes you feel miserable. Why not say there's a 30 percent chance the sun will shine. Or think about how pleased the

farmers may be to have that rain."

The Rice twins aren't saying that nothing awful ever happens. It does; it has to them, and it will again. "In fact, unless you have the lows, you can't appreciate the high highs," Greg says. "But there is something of benefit in every situation, something to learn."

Although they've resisted entering the entertainment world, where dwarfs are depicted either as freaks or "the silly little guy who runs into a wall and falls down," John and Greg Rice did appear in Jerry Lewis' movie "Hardly Working," playing two veteran circus clowns who teach Jerry how to put on his clown makeup.

And they've agreed to emcee a new production by John Barbour, the creator of "Real People." Called "That Quiz Show," the TV program brings contestants who have an unusual story to tell — a doctor who moonlights as a stand-up comic, the man arrested climbing the Transamerica Building in San Francisco, the nation's youngest heart transplant patient — together to compete on celebrity trivia questions.

"That Quiz Show" is already being shown in several cities, including Houston, and is due to be aired in Dallas after the first of the year.

Physically, John and Greg Rice are mirror images of each other. John is right-handed, Greg, left-handed. Their internal organs are so similar doctors say they could be interchanged. "We have spare parts," they grin. The twins' personalities seem like mirror images too. John is impulsive, Greg, analytical; John is a doer, Greg, more of a thinker.

Both brothers like to date tall women. Any special ones? Greg doesn't miss a beat. "I have one; John has several."

Greg says he'd like to get married and raise a family. And what if the children were born dwarfs?

Greg shrugs. "Raising children is a real crap-shoot anyway. Whether they turn out 3 feet tall or 8 feet tall, about all you can do is give them love and encouragement and hope for the best." Then he brightens. "If they turn out like John and I did, I'd be happy."



(AP Photo)

THE LITTLEST ZABEL

Terry Zabel is photographed here, surrounded by his parents and brothers in their home in Columbia Heights, Minn. They are (from

the left) his father, James; brothers Mark, 15, Gregg, 11, and Jay, 14; and his mother Mary.

He breaks bones with a twitch

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, Minn. (AP) — Seventeen-year-old Terry Zabel plays football, lifts weights and is learning to scuba dive. His classmates at Columbia Heights High School voted him homecoming king this fall.

All the normal stuff of growing up in small town U.S.A. — except that Terry is three feet tall, weighs only 30 pounds and spends his waking hours in a wheelchair.

He was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, a non-terminal but debilitating brittle bone disease that kept his bones from growing normally and causes them to break easily.

That's why, as a sophomore, Terry was more irritated than surprised when he broke his leg playing football — while sitting in his wheelchair and manipulating players in a video game.

"He threw a pass and he was running for a touchdown," explained his physical education teacher, Ron Margo. "He got excited and twisted himself. He said, 'Oh, no!' and you could see he was really in pain."

"He broke a bone just by a twitch if you can imagine that," Margo said.

"You couldn't count the number of broken bones I've had with one sheet of paper and a pencil," Terry said of the dozens of breaks he has suffered.

But Terry, now a senior, says he doesn't allow the disease to rule his

life. Margo says Terry studies the rules for football, baseball, basketball and golf with the rest of his classmates.

Then, instead of physically going out on the field," the teacher said, "we set up teams on a video screen and he transfers the physical part of the game. . . Here, a student confined to a wheelchair can get out and put a team on the field and play, show what his mind can do."

Terry became interested in athletics when he started taking physical education as a sophomore. With his size and problem of brittle bones, he knew he would never be a jock, but he wanted to do as much as he could.

Terry now is learning to scuba dive, his weight supported by a sling apparatus in the swimming pool.

"Every day is a little rough," he said. "The valve actually shut off the first day I started scuba diving."

"You scream and you kick and you get attention," he added with a grin.

"I have learned how to use what I have physically and emotionally and mentally, too," Terry said. "I've learned a lot about myself and how to work around things."

"If you have lived with something like this all your life, you just accept it and make the best of it. And sometimes the best is better than some people's lives that are physically normal."



(AP Photo)

ONE OF THE BUNCH

Terry Zabel makes his way through the halls of Columbia Heights High School on his way to class. His classmates recently voted him homecoming king.

For Better or For Worse □ Lynn Johnston



Deb
B19A

Math

Mr. & Mrs. Fannington

Al & Harriet
Stickney



A9 Roland

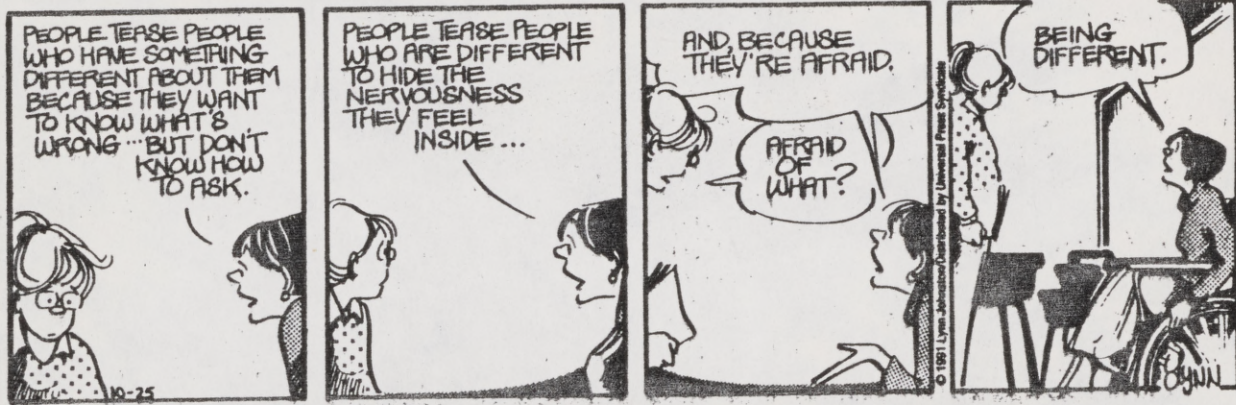
- Mary Henning - Patty

- Scot Ward



B30A Mike Upsky

Lisa Dallas - Dawn Abbey - Donna Hughes



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SAVE

San Francisco Chronicle 23
 ★★ Mon., January 10, 1983

Hormone Study May Lead to Bigger Things

New York

Scientists for the first time have reported successful use of a synthetic substance to set in motion the natural production of growth hormone in humans.

Research workers predict that the artificial substance, called GRF for growth hormone releasing factor, will prove useful in treating serious human growth disorders, including some cases of childhood dwarfism. The accomplishment, reported Thursday, might also be an important step toward applications to agriculture in regulating the size and growth of domestic animals.

The releasing factor could be an alternative to the use of natural growth hormone harvested from human pituitary glands or produced by recombinant DNA techniques. Use of the human hormone is standard treatment for pituitary dwarfism in humans, but the supply is extremely limited. Tests with human growth hormone produced through gene splicing are now under way in human patients.

The first use of the artificially produced releasing factor in humans was a test in six normal adult volunteers demonstrating that it stimulated their pituitary glands to produce human growth hormone, which was detected in their bloodstreams. The report of this successful test followed by only a few months reports of the discovery and identification of the long-sought natural releasing growth factor and its successful fabrication.

The natural substance was found in tissues from a patient at University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, who had a tumor of the pancreas and a serious overproduction of growth hormone by the pituitary gland.

A substance produced by the tumor triggered the release of the growth hormone and proved to be either the long-sought natural growth hormone releasing factor of the brain or something very closely similar to it. The natural releasing factor is produced by the hypothalamus, a deep-seated part of the brain that exercises many control functions over the pituitary gland.

The scientific team plans to test it in adults who failed to grow normally because of a lack of natural growth hormone production.

New York Times

Jan 16, 1983
 S.F. CHRONICLE

Mail to
 H. Stuckey

Growing Up Little

By Robert J. Gore
 Los Angeles Times

West Covina, Los Angeles County

ALEX LUNA vividly recalls how he found out that his 4-month-old son, Brian, would always remain a little person. Barbara, his wife, sobbing so hard she could not speak, handed him a card with the pediatrician's two-word diagnosis: "Achondroplastic dwarf."

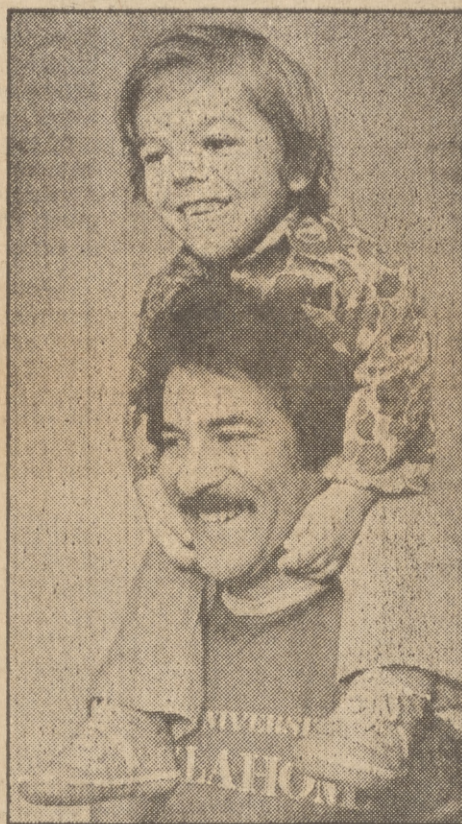
Brian Luna is one of America's estimated 100,000 "little people," so nicknamed for their stature.

In a series of aftershocks to the disturbing diagnosis seven years ago, Alex and Barbara soon learned that there was little information available on dwarfism and much trouble ahead for their son: physical abuse, merciless teasing, staring and the persistent belief that people who share his disability are retarded.

Alex and Brian turned for help to Little People of America, the organization founded in 1957 by actor Billy Barty, which in turn referred the Lunas to the UCLA Short Stature Clinic at Harbor General Hospital and Dr. David Rimoin. Rimoin said Brian suffers from a congenital bone disease. "There are hundreds of causes of dwarfism — some are genetic and others are glandular."

Rimoin also explained that there are two types of dwarf, proportionate and disproportionated. Physicians do not recognize the word "midget," he said.

Repaying their debt to the association, Alex and Brian have visited little people and their parents "just to talk and make them aware," Alex said. They have appeared on television interview shows as well. "I want to make sure other parents in our position did



Brian got a ride on his father's shoulders in their West Covina home

not have to go through what we did," he said.

Jan. 16, 1983
S.F. Chronicle



Los Angeles Times photos by Rick Corrales

Brian Luna, 7, played cards with two friends — 'I'm just like everyone else,' he said. 'I'm just littler'

Although Alex, a 38-year-old Southern California Gas Co. supervisor who lives here in West Covina, and Barbara, 34, and a secretary from nearby Covina, were divorced when Brian was 5 years old, they continue to share the desire that "Brian have outgoing, positive role models," Alex said.

Brian's friends at the association were able to help the Lunas when their son ran into his first real problem at school last year. "I wanted Brian to go to public schools to learn the system and to have friends. Some teachers suggested special schools. That's a lot of baloney. I'm not going to hide him away," Alex said.

But school involved difficulties. Barbara said Brian would come home distraught. "The first two weeks of school were absolute hell," she said. Some of the other children were constantly hitting and teasing Brian.

Alex asked Barty to speak to the children at the school. Barty agreed and brought Tommy Madden and Tony Cox, two other actors who are also little people. The three spoke at an assembly. Barbara said the results were "absolutely wonderful."

"The children treat Brian like anyone else now and the teachers understand more about him."

Madden and Brian became fast friends as a result of the assembly. The 35-year-old actor visits Brian regularly. "So many average-sized parents shun their children when they discover they

have a little person. They put them in closets and totally disown them," Madden said as he watched Brian play cards with two friends on the living room floor of Alex's apartment.

"Parents must understand and help their children to understand that they are not dwarfs or midgets or freaks. They're little people," Madden said.

Alex said. "Brian can deal with quite a bit now. He's full of questions about his body, his clothes, his future ... everything." Alex said his daughter, Laurie, 15, and Robert Sylvester, a young friend, have been a great help with Brian.

With a low front door knob, strategically placed stepping stools and an extended light switch in the bathroom,

'It's important for children like Brian to learn very young what to expect from the rest of the world'

At the same time, Madden said, little people must learn they will be patted on the head ("That's one thing I hate") and must prepare for a lifetime of weight-watching and chronic back and leg problems.

"It's important for children like Brian to learn very young what to expect from the rest of the world," Madden said, "and you can't fight it. You have to learn to accept it or you'll wind up with a tremendous chip on your shoulder. Unfortunately, that's not uncommon among little people."

His son has learned from Madden,

Brian is on his own at home. "He does everything any other 7-year-old would do — he just moves chairs around to get into things," Barbara said, "but he is very sensitive about hurting another's feelings."

Brian has his own, 7-year-old philosophy. "You can't be chicken, you gotta be brave, but sometimes you gotta ignore 'em, too," he said while trying to peek at his friend's cards. Then Brian looked up, pondering a sober thought.

"I'm just like everyone else," he said, "I'm just littler."



April
183



STICKNEY

Top group photo: March Ski Trip in Lake Tahoe. Bottom group photo: New Year's Eve Ski Trip. We really had a great time, wished you could of join ed us! Top single: Scott Seidman, President, New York City Chapter, visited us. Three beauties(R to L) Susie Barnes, Janice Nehus, and Louise Yankofsky. Bottom right: George, father Angelo, and wife Sue Rossitto.



Tanya Bell having a cooky & parents watching Santa hard at work. Peter Strauss and Art Gil at Moah, Ut.

Looking For a Better Job?

MIKE GILDEN recently obtained a job with the AMTRAK Corporation as a Reservations clerk. How did he do it? His school had sent some information to him concerning a JOB FAIR. As he was interested in seeing what they had to offer, he decided he'd go and check it out. He updated his resume, grabbed his brief case and took off. At the JOB FAIR he approached the larger corporations, giving them his resume if they were accepting them. (He found there were 2 definite categories at the JOB FAIR--those that are highly skilled, with a degree, and those with natural ability and already acquired skills, and with some work experience.) When interviewed, he tried to be very positive about himself; he would tell them about his qualifications before they questioned him--he felt good about this. For him it was easier this way--and they listened. (MIKE also feels that having a "handicap" is a plus with a large company, as they are often looking for well qualified handicapped to fill their quote of minorities.)

After filling out an application with the AMTRAK Corporation, he was quite confident that he was getting a position with them so he called their Personnel Dept. once a week to find out more about the position he was pursuing. He took the initiative to talk to AMTRAK employees to find out more about company policy, were they happy working for them, etc. Well, MIKE did get the job! Although he has only been with them now for a short time, life has taken on a very structured pattern for him--a new routine with a challenge and a future--and he likes it.

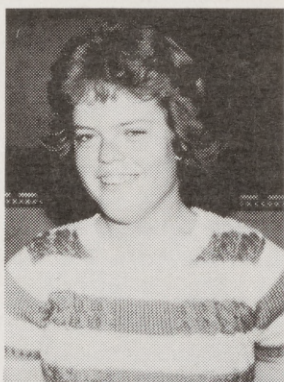
A few words of "wisdom" from MIKE. He does recommend that a new employee follow closely what his employer wants him to do; listen to his suggestions. Be careful with your sick leave; don't use it unless it is really justified. He also believes in using one's natural abilities, and pursuing something along that line if at all possible. Mike attended the University of Calif., Northridge, majoring in Business. His previous employment was working with an insurance company in sales, and also a telephone company, giving him computer and telephone experience in both. Now he is using his past learned skills in his new job. Before getting this present position, he had thought of opening up his own insurance business. Right now he is a "salesman" for AMTRAK, and if someday he should open up his own business, what he has been learning along the way, will be an asset to his own company.

In summary, if you are looking for a job, we would suggest that you apply to a large corporation (i.e., IBM, Coca Cola, TRW, Rockwell, Hughes Aircraft, etc.). Large corporations are required by law to hire a certain number of handicapped and minorities. Be aware of the JOB FAIRS that are held in your area (usually advertised through newspaper, radio, etc. Vocational Rehab should know this information also.) Don't give up and keep your expectations high. Develop your natural abilities (i.e., communication skills such as writing, language, typing, art, athletics, memory); these will help you in acquiring a position. And dress in your "Sunday best" when seeking employment! Be on your way soon!!

National Convention is next month! Dates are July 16-22, 1983. Place: Boston's Marriott Hotel Long Wharf. What date does your plane leave for this exciting convention??



SMILE, SHIRLEY BARTY,
YOU ARE ON CAMERA....



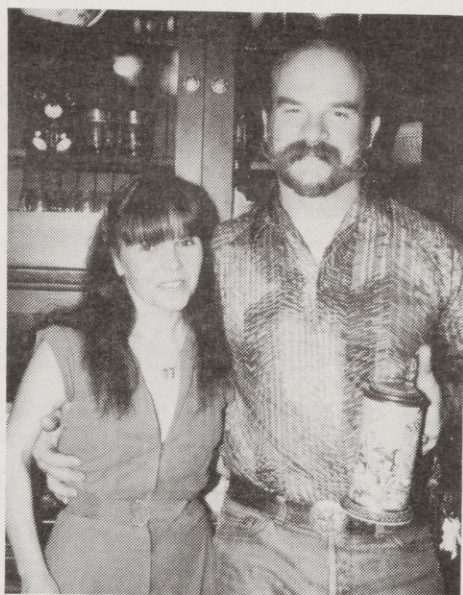
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SKATING PARTY..WELCOME!



Leslye & Nerses Melkonian at
skating event...



The Ocone Family with Billy
Barty at Easter Party...



Our goldsmith, Frank Poppy &
his wife, Lee.



Georgia Guild & daughter,
Mary Levin.



President Stacie Nichols & car-
toonist friend, John Williamson.



Lois Search and parents from Man-
hattan Beach. Great to see them!



Shirley Harper, present Board Member, Los Angeles Chapter

All Right, Shirley!

SHIRLEY HARPER, one of L.A. Chapter's hardest behind-the-scene workers received an outstanding performance award by the Veterans Administration where she has worked for the past 12 years in the Centralized Transcription Unit. The award was presented to her by the Director, H. H. VILLALOVOS, and her Assistant Chief, John Gibson. The award reads: "Shirley Harper's Significant Contribution to the Mission of the Agency by Substantially Exceeding Performance Requirements." Any of us who know SHIRLEY know she is certainly deserving of this award. The Los Angeles Chapter is fortunate to have a member such as SHIRLEY who is always ready to help others, whether they be a long-time friend or a new acquaintance. Unlike some, she never goes on and on about her contribution, but just does what comes naturally--she gives silently. So congratulations, SHIRLEY--we're proud of you.

LPA Scholarship Program

..by Charles Secor

Did you know that LPA is taking applications for their scholarship program!! Do you need financial help for college? This is what you need to do immediately!

You must see what your expenses and resources are for the school year 1983-84. Your expenses would be tuition, books, lab fees, room and board, etc. Your resources could include school scholarships, vocational rehab or any corporation grants, and support by your parents. If you find you are still in need, you should contact our District Director (Betty Stewart, 16908 Judy Way, Cerritos, CA 90701; phone 213, 926-5277). She in turn will submit your application to Ron Roskamp, Treasurer, LPA, Inc., for review. Have several copies made as National will need them.

You should prepare a brief resume on yourself. It should include your high school grades, present progress in college (if any), future goals for yourself, anything special about yourself, and your financial needs. Also have 3 references--two from past professors/teachers, and the other from an LPA member who has some kind of credibility within the LPA organization (it is not necessary that you have some-one from the organization; it's just another point in your favor). It helps also to be a current paid member of LPA.

LPA does not have an application form per se, so it is important that you do this and be clear and brief in all points. You should note that it is getting late, because most scholarships will be given out in July at the National Convention in Boston. LPA Foundation gives out between 5-10 scholarships each year and would like to give more to those who are truly needy.

Too, if you would like to give to the LPA Scholarship Program, you can make out your check to Little People of America Foundation Scholarship Fund, and mail to Ron Roskamp, Treasurer, LPA, Inc., 4244 Greenvalle S.W., Wyoming, MI 49509.



FUND-RAISER

San Mateo County Supervisor Anna Eshoo, left, buys her ticket for the Spring Fling dinner-dance March 25 at 7 p.m. at Grosvenor Inn in South San Francisco. The affair will benefit the Center for Independence of the Disabled of Belmont. With Ms. Eshoo are Billy Hare and Nancy Cunningham of the Pacific Telephone Co., one of the event's sponsors. Tickets are \$50 each and are available at the center.



BILLY'S RIGHT-HAND ASSISTANTS AT TOURNAMENT: (Back Row L to R) Sandi Etchinison, Kathy Gieb, Pam Grizz, Pam Ybarra, Stacie Nichols, Marcia DeRousse, Tracy McCoy, Margo Apostolos, Claire Hayes; (Front) Allison Aries, Vicki Napoli, Lydia Thomas, Susie Barnes, Louise Yankofsky, Sue Rossitto, Margarita Fernandez, Mary Lou Sberna, and BILLY BARTY.



RUTHIE RICKER, BOSTON, 1983 CONVENTION QUEEN FLEW TO CALIF. FOR GOLF TOURNAMENT.



1983 LP WINNERS IN GOLF TOURNAMENT--R TO L: DARRELL MONTZINGO, SEATTLE, WITH GROSS OF 76; MIKE TREYLINEK, PITTSBURGH, PA, WITH 79, AND CHRIS RAMONO, WITH 87. GREAT GOING, GUYS....

CALL MARILYN HOYT at 213, 549-5163 if you are interested in forming a square dance group. Could be fun, guys and gals!

Board Meetings are open to general membership. Contact STACIE NICHOLS, 213, 345-3892 or PAM YBARRA, 213, 869-0603 if you are interested in knowing when and where monthly meeting will be.

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Caring surgeon fights dwarfism by remaking tiny, skewed bodies

By Patrick Young
Newhouse News Service

BALTIMORE — Bright lights flood Operating Room 4 at Children's Hospital as Dr. Steven Kopits makes a four-inch incision in the right calf of Edward McAndrew, a 12-year-old suffering from a progressively crippling form of dwarfism.

Over the next four hours, in three separate procedures, Kopits removes nearly an inch of bone from the bowed small bone in McAndrew's lower right leg and left leg. Then, with the aid of a surgical saw and electric drill, Kopits cuts through the left tibia, the big bone of the lower leg, and moves it slightly to realign it.

His aim is to correct the improper weight distribution that is slowly destroying the boy's knee joints, and to eliminate much of the bow from his legs.

"The primary goal is to prevent disability," Kopits explains.

That single sentence sums up his life's work.

For more than a decade, Kopits has worked to prevent the devastating hip and limb deformities that accompany many forms of dwarfism. He has done it almost single-handedly, developing new operations and adapting established procedures to the peculiar problems of his patients.

Those who know him say Kopits is an extraordinary man — an innovative physician whose surgical mastery is more than matched by his compassion and concern. Four years ago he gave up the prestigious job of chief of pediatric orthopedics at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to devote even more time to his patients.

"He is regarded as a mystical figure by many of his patients and their

'He is regarded as a mystical figure by many of his patients and their families'

families, and the people who work with him hold him equally in awe," says William M. Dowd, an Albany, N.Y., newspaper editor whose daughter has been operated on twice by Kopits. "He is a very special person, one of those people you know 100 years from now will have a place in the history books."

"The biggest factor is he really, honestly cares," says Peggy Albert, administrative secretary of the Little People's Research Fund, a non-profit group set up to help support Kopits' work.

"He knows about their home life and their personal life. He's concerned if they are not doing well in school. It's not a job for him. He does it for the love of it, and it comes through."

"He is deeply religious," adds Diane Davis, a nurse practitioner who works closely with Kopits at Johns Hopkins. "He believes this is what he was made to do. One mother told me, 'He makes every child seem special.'"

The pain and fear caused by the deformities and the surgery to correct them can be great. Kopits is adept at dealing with the psychological problems and the family strains that go along with the medical problems.

"He's gotten to be counselor, priest and doctor to some of these families," Albert says.

A motto that hangs in Kopits' office

reads: "You become responsible forever for what you have tamed."

An estimated 20,000 people in the United States suffer from one of the 80-plus forms of dwarfism. They prefer to be known as little people, and resent being called dwarfs or midgets, words that evoke images of court jesters and sideshow freaks.

"They are terms seen as disparaging to them as human beings," Kopits says.

Kopits has performed 700 operations on about 250 little people. A number of his patients come from overseas.

All but a few forms of dwarfism result from genetic defects in the bone areas where growth originates. Achondroplasia, the most common form of dwarfism, is typified by an unusually large head, narrow spinal canal and short, bowed legs that produce a rolling gait.

Ellis van Creveld Syndrome causes crippling knock-knees.

Kniest Syndrome may result in severely deformed hips and damaged knees.

The list goes on.

Ninety percent of Kopits' surgery is on children. He has operated on some as young as 1 and believes some infants would benefit from surgery as early as six months after birth.

"The deformities occur in most instances until the end of growth," Kopits says. "If you haven't been able to correct them by the time the child stops growing, you are pretty well set up for such serious effects as deformed hips and scoliosis (curvature of the spine)."

Kopits was born in Hungary in 1936, the son and grandson of surgeons. His family escaped the Nazi occupation in 1944 and settled four years later in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

She's Little, But She Has A Big Heart

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Peggy King believes the size of your heart has no relationship to the size of your body.

The 17-year-old high school senior who stands 3 feet 9 inches tall has some advice for little people like her.

"Try to be as normal as possible . . . realize that God loves you. If people can't accept you because of your size, they have a bigger problem than you do."

Peggy has tried to put her credo to work, participating since age 11 in an organization called Little People of America. Last week she was voted the organization's Teen Queen at the annual convention in Lancaster, Pa.

The convention was attended by 575 little people from across the United States.

Miss King stresses the words "little people" rather than midget or dwarf — the correct medical term for her condition.

"The word 'midget' isn't out with the public," she says. "We want them to know us as little people, because that's what we are, little people."

Her mother, Charlotte King, says she and her husband knew when Peggy was born that something was wrong, but it was five months before her condition was diagnosed as a form of dwarfism.

Neither her parents nor brothers Patrick III, 21, and David, 20, or sister Judy, 15, have been afflicted by dwarfism.

"She's a very, very well-adjusted girl," Mrs. King boasts of Peggy. "She is what she is. She's always had the grace of God to accept it. She's had her hurts, but every kid's had their hurts."

Finding clothing for their daughter is a difficult task, admits Peggy's father, Patrick King Jr.

"We can't buy her little girl's clothes because she's a woman," he explains.

Her summer job, secretarial work at a communications firm, also has its drawbacks. Particularly ominous is a large filing cabinet which "even the 'big' people have trouble with . . . But it's not very often that I can't get a file out."



Peggy King feels the size of a person's heart is what counts.

AP



Globe Photo/VINCE ROSATI

Family Portrait

The Husers smile for a family portrait. Left to right are John, Joy, Matthew, and Charlotte Huser. Matthew, 8, an ach-

ondroplastic, or little person, is the Huser's foster child.

'Entertaining an Angel'

By SUSAN CAMPBELL
Globe Staff Writer

GOLDEN CITY, Mo. — The patter around the table tonight is typical. Joy and Matthew want the digital clock/radio when Mark moves out, and both want to be the first to tell what happened in school today.

Finally, Matthew will give in to his sister and allow her the radio. She, after all, likes music the most. He will share.

Talk then centers around the meal. The children have always been big eaters, and the pie crust is a little dry.

As the meat is passed, Matthew grabs the bone from the roast and hides it near his plate. His father is partial to the bone marrow.

"Hey, Shorty," says John Huser, "you've got my meal there."

A normal life, a normal meal, a normal exchange, but when it comes to 8-year-olds, Matthew Huser is exceptional.

He argues with his sister Joy, plays the violin, and sings in a church choir.

The exceptions are that Joy is his foster sister, the violin is a quarter-sized one to accommodate his short arms, and he sings in two choirs because he had difficulty gaining acceptance to the one he preferred.

Matthew is *achondroplastic*, a congenital defect long known as dwarfism. His body and head will grow to a normal size, but his arms and legs will never reach mature growth.

One of every 40,000 children have achondroplasia; the life expectancy is about 50 years, and the possibilities of a little person contracting hydrocephalus, or water on the brain, are high.

Matthew had hydrocephalus. He also is in a body brace to correct a curvature of the spine. He has traveled to Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Md., for surgery, and his visits to

the orthodontist, to correct a malformed bite common in little people, are legendary.

The chances of his reaching 4 feet, 10 inches are slim.

The chances of his leading a normal life are much better.

"He might be somewhat sheltered, living in a small town like Golden City," said his mother, Charlotte, "but I think he has a good start."

Matthew has lived with the Husers for seven years. Mrs. Huser, mother of five, had already accepted several foster children, but she met Matthew when she went with a friend to the Joplin Regional Diagnostic Clinic.

"She had just had twins with Down's syndrome," said Mrs. Huser, "so while she talked to the doctors, I went down where the children were."

"He was sitting on a trike, and he had this gleam in his eye. I told my husband I had fallen in love."

"Up until that time, I thought I was going to be a teacher, but when I saw Matthew, I think God was telling me my days as a foster mother aren't over."

The Huser family went to the clinic to meet Matthew, and everyone agreed that he would fit into the family.

"He's something else," said Huser. "He's family."

"I could almost describe (his) birth for you," said Mrs. Huser. "He brought us love, and he's so compassionate. It's hard to remember that he's 8."

And, like one of their own, the Husers expect big things from Matthew.

"We have tried from the beginning to make sure that he sees little people who are successful," said Mrs. Huser. "He needs to see that."

Matthew, along with the rest of the family, is a (See ANGEL, 2A)

Angel

member of Little People of America, a national organization started in 1957 by movie giant Billy Barty.

One or more members of the family and Matthew have never missed a national meeting since joining four years ago, and next year, Matthew wants to tackle Las Vegas alone.

"That way I can gamble," he said.

"Well," said Mrs. Huser, in mock shock, "the Baptist church certainly hasn't done much for you."

At church, Matthew sings in the choir. He also is a Singing Rascal with the United Methodist Church, which performs for civic groups and nursing homes.

"You should see him there," said Mrs. Huser. "He is so understanding. He does so well with them."

At school, Matthew is concerned about the chair janitors modified for him. When he sits in a regular desk, his legs don't touch the floor, and he complains of aches, but he doesn't want to sit in the special chair.

"The teacher said she didn't want to draw attention to the fact that he was different, but that in this case she just might have to. If it hurts him to sit in a regular chair, she will have to make him sit in the other one," said Mrs. Huser.

The house is relatively free of modifications. Matthew uses the kids' bathroom, where he can reach the sink, and has his own room in the back.

When he gets older, LPA publishes booklets on special modifications he can use to learn how to drive.

For now, he is still stinging over the defeats his baseball team racked up this summer, and he is looking forward to seeing Joy's teacher again. He thinks she's cute.

Later, there's college, maybe the "one in Joplin," but he's not sure what he wants to do.

"I don't know what he's planning," said Mrs. Huser, "but it will be good."

"You've heard of people entertaining angels unaware," she said. "Well, I am very aware I am entertaining an angel."

1984

SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF LITTLE PEOPLE

By: Marylou Sberna

Analysis and Conclusions

I am proud to report that 94 respondents participated in my survey last year in Boston-at the National LPA Convention. The sample population consisted of 31 males (33%), 63 females (67%), with ages ranging from 18 years old to 71 years old. The average age was 24 years. 64 little people (66%) were single- never married, and 25 persons were married. A whopping 56 respondents(59%) were of Achondroplasia type of short stature while the remaining 41% were a variation of other "types" of short stature. The education completed ranged from 26% with a high school diploma, 37.2% had part college or business school education, and 36.2% graduated from college with a bachelor's or master's degree. The average occupation of the respondents was in a white collar/self employed position (40%). Of the upper proffession, 5% held these positions. 18% were middle proffession, 17% had lower proffessions. 21% of the LPs attended nine or more conventions including Boston, and 8% revealed that it was their first convention.

For those active singles, this will be of no surprise, or perhaps it will... 89.4% of the respondents agreed that a LPA National Convention is a good place for singles to meet other prospective singles. 60% felt that it is easier for LP women to date average size partners than it is for LP men to date average size partners. In response to the statement: "a marriage between two little persons is generally better than a marriage between a little person and an average size person," 48.9% agreed, 26.6% were unsure and 24.5% disagreed. There was however, a general consensus that in regards to another person's type of short stature, it had no influence in dating, adopting or just being friends. A strong 88% felt that even if they were sure that any of their children would be born little, it would have no influence on deciding whether or not to have children. On the open ended question at the end of the questionnaire, most of the respondents felt that more research should be done on the social aspects of a little person's life which includes independent living strategies, employment and intimate relationships. Also more or continueing efforts in medical/genetic research of short stature.

Most of my hypotheses if not all of them, showed results that were in contrast to what I had anticipated. I found out that although a person's level of education will generally ^{have} more employment opportunities, it does not reflect any relationships to one's personal adjustment. Nor does education tell us how much genetic knowledge one understands and uses in deciding whether or not to have children of their own. Does the family in little person's life while young have any significance in adjustment in adult life? According to this survey no relationship has occurred between the two variables. Is age a factor in helping one learn or accept his or her short stature? Age, in this case had no bearing on the issues of having dwarf children, acceptance of one's short stature or it's personal adjustment in society. For those who marry other LPs, research has shown that they are generally happy and have successful marriages. Unfortunately, I did not have enough "mixed" marriages (LP and average size spouses) to compare these statistic with.

The results of this survey may come to many people as no surprise, in the little person's mind, many truly believe that they bear no obstacles to overcome and deny an difficulties they may have encountered. In spite of this, we are generally very accepting of our short stature that is why we have been attending National Conventions for the past 27 years. In light of this, I feel that my sample was indeed a biased group. Simply based on the fact that those people who attend conventions interact with other little people, are more likely to be assertive, outgoing, motivated and most important- self accepting of their short stature. Our population, like any other population that has been examined by researchers in the past, have similiar distributions of education, race marital status, occupation, children, political affiliation, age, religion, and many other aspects of life. Although we share unique challenges and problems there is probably more similarities than differences in regards to the general population than most "minority" groups that are in existance today. LPA with out a doubt, plays a vital part in assisting LPs to direct a more positive outlook and future than any other support group. in being a contributing member of society. I would like to some day research those little people who were never exposed to an organisation like LPA and see what kind results would arise. I am sure that we would be very surprised.

I would like to thank all 94 respondents who took the time to participate in the survey and of course LPA for making it all possible!

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Aug 8 1984

TV/TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY



A scene from 'Little People'

Dwarf Pride And Hurray for It

JOHNS HAS A problem. Everyone wants to pick him up.

You may be tempted to do so yourself when you see him tonight on a lovely little program titled "Little People." If you're looking for some temporary relief from the Olympic Games, try it and meet a group of very interesting human beings. There will be times when you will want to cheer (10 p.m., Channel 9, with a reshowing Saturday at 9:30 p.m. on Channel 32).

They used to be organized under the banner of an organization called Midgets of America in a day when "dwarf" was a word no one wanted to use. Their new name is Little People of America and the change of name as well as attitude is a story that is told with both good humor and sensitivity by filmmakers Jan Krawits and Thomas Ott for PBS.

AS THE PROGRAM shows, "little people" can be born to conventional parents and can also, in turn, produce conventional children. But fortunately this program is not focused on the medical end of the subject, so stick with it and I believe you will be rewarded with some observations that can enrich us all.

The program opens on a riverboat excursion of the Little People of America with dance bands, picnics and laughter. Most of the hour is made up of interviews with some remarkably attractive people who tell us about the lighter, more affectionate aspects of their lives — their surprise when they discovered they were different from the other kids, their efforts to succeed in a world of larger people, and their delight in finding there are others like them.

"When I met the others for the first time, I was overwhelmed to find how nice it is to have eye-to-eye contact with people," says one chap.

There is a talented comedian-philosopher on this program. The producers fail to identify him — and shame on them, because he's the star of "Little People." For the purposes of this review I will call him John. He has some wonderful moments describing the problems of living in a world designed for bigger people:

"One day I looked at the bathroom in our house and said to myself, 'God, we can't use it! After washing my hands, I reach up for a towel and the water runs down my arms. So we solved it by raising the floor two feet. Now, when the big people say something is wrong with me because I can't use their bathrooms, I tell them to come to MY house and use MY bathroom and they'll discover that something is wrong with THEM!'"

John has devised something he calls Dwarf Pride. "People may say that it's foolish to be proud of being a dwarf but it's more foolish to be ashamed of it."

He enjoys his interaction with other minorities — especially blacks. "They say that for 200 years their people were sold as slaves. S---! For 5000 years my people were given away as gifts!"

THROUGHOUT literature dwarfs have been pictured as either super-evil as some kind of monsters or super-good as in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." John sees all this as part of their heritage and believes they should be proud of it. He carries his philosophy of Dwarf Pride one step further than the black counterpart when he adds:

"If you feel pride in yourself and you feel pride in your people, it's almost impossible not to make the next step, which is to feel pride in ALL people."

There is a lot of good common sense in this neat little program every viewer of every minority can relate to.

"If we're the ugly people, society needs us because without the ugly people there can be no Beautiful People. Even if that's the way society chooses to see us, we're still needed as part of the whole. So let's give each one of us the opportunity to play a significant role in that society."

Although the producers seem to come from elsewhere, the final credits include this note:

For further information contact Little People of America, P.O. Box 633, San Bruno, Calif., 94066.



Barbara Yturalde and Georgia Guild

Our own Georgia Guild, Burbank, is engaged to be married to Bob Rood of Salinas, Ca. on Saturday, March 3th. The newlywed couple will reside in Northern Ca. . Georgia is a long time resident of the L.A. area and long time member of LPA. Congratulations to you both, and keep in touch.



Shirley L. & Paul Holtsclaw Matthew McCarthy, (7)
Paul would like to personally preparing for Law
thank every one for coming!!! or Medical School?



Darcy Painter with Parents!!

Eileen & son Jeffrey Ocone(3)



Space Hunters Film Group



Top:Michelle Hamilton,13
and Monique,10



Little People of America
P.O. Box 633
San Bruno, CA 94066

8-8-84

I am not certain who this letter should be addressed to but it is being written in response to an article written by Terrence O'Flaherty of the Chronicle 8-8-84.

In the article he quotes a man referred to as "John" as saying, "They say that for 200 years their people (Blacks) were sold as slaves. S...! For 5000 years my people were given away as gifts!"

I am a Black Woman and I must caution "John" as a member of an oppressed group to beware of statements of this kind. Mr. O'Flaherty seemed to be quite impressed by this comparison to the oppression of Black people in this country.

"John", the oppression of any people should not be compared to the oppression of another. They are just symptoms of a general disregard for human life and dignity. I might ask you "John" how little people who are also Black are treated in what appears to be a predominately white organization. And if in fact they are treated fairly and welcomed warmly into your organization I wonder how they are affected by the double oppression of being black and being smaller than a large part of the general population. Are there gay or lesbian members of the organization, do they have a voice or are they once again as in main stream America invisible.

I only mention this in hopes that you will remember especially when speaking as a member of an oppressed group the oppressions of human beings everywhere.

Please remember the Jew's and the Holocaust.

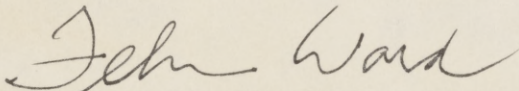
Please, remember the Indigenous peoples of this land, the Native Americans.

Please, remember my people, the Black Americans and their continued fight against the oppression of all people.

Let us never again stoop so low as to compare oppressions. Let us join in a fight against the oppression of human beings in every land on the face of this earth.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Terrance O'Flaherty in hopes that he will also consider when printing such words the divisive nature of such words. But then, perhaps that was his intent!

Sincerely,



Felicia Janet Ward
633 Cleveland #8
Oakland, CA 94606

THE LITTLE GIANT



By JOE KITA
KEVIN MCGONIGAL is barely four feet tall, but he is a giant in a world peopled by incredible hulks.

The 4ft. 2in., 97lb. dwarf is the Minnesota lightweight powerlifting champion and holds a national record of 248lbs. in the bench press.

His personal bests for other lifts include 198lbs. in the deadlift and an astounding 400lbs. in the squat. He is ranked among the top 50 powerlifters in the country for his size.

McGonigal, 20, didn't start lifting weights until his sophomore year in high school — late compared to most other competitors — but he was no novice at sports.

He had already excelled at baseball, golf, bowling, bik-

4 ft. 2 in. Kevin lifts four times his own weight

ing, swimming, gymnastics and football. "I always liked sports," says the determined McGonigal. "I even did some wrestling in high school, but I won only one match in three years."

"I would go out and get whipped, train really hard for a week, and then go out and get whipped again. I don't really know why I do it. I guess I just don't want to turn to fat."

Amazingly, McGonigal won his first weightlifting competition only three days after taking up the sport.

But then, he has always done things his own way.

When he competed at the national powerlifting championships held in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, he didn't go as part of a team, accompanied by coaches and assistants.

He paid his own airfare

and acted as his own trainer. McGonigal, who is studying electronics at North Hennepin Community College near Minneapolis, works out for 15 hours a week.

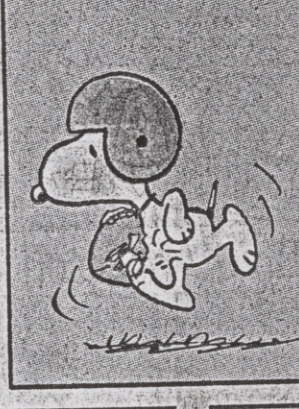
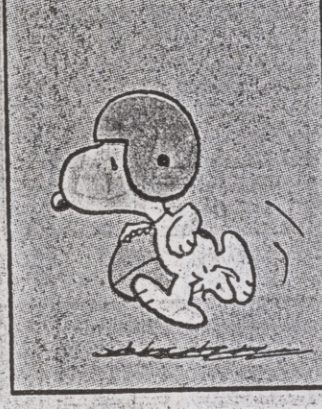
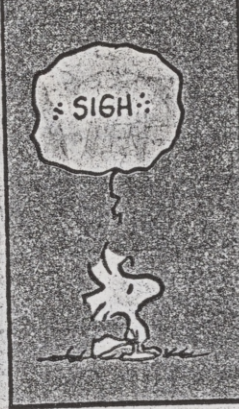
When he is not in class or the gym, he works actively in Little People of America, a national organization that fights for the rights of the short.

The Bay Area's Best Comics

San Jose Mercury News

Sunday, September 22, 1985

Peanuts □ Charles Schulz



Doonesbury □ Garry Trudeau

FIRST, LET ME WELCOME ALL OF YOU IN THE CLASS OF '89 TO THE BABY

I'M DEAN HONEY, AND I'LL BE CO-ORDINATING ORIENTATION WEEK. TO LIVE TO START OUR FIRST SES-

LET'S GO CLOCKWISE, STARTING OVER THERE. STATE YOUR NAME

MY NAME IS HARRY PASKELL...

Read "Peanuts" every day in the Mercury News.

January 14, 1985

Let me introduce myself. My name is Christopher John Figone. I was born on February 26, 1971 at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, California. I was born a Metatropic Dwarf. I belong to an organization called Little People of America (L.P.A.) and attend monthly meetings. I have had leg, neck and several ear surgeries. Because of the surgery on my legs I spent the 6th grade at home with two tutors.

I attended my kindergarten year at Eisenhower Grammer School in Santa Clara. Grades 1st through 8th were attended at Saint Justin's Catholic School in Santa Clara.

All three of my older brothers attended Mitty High School. Mike and Ray graduated in 1975. David graduated in 1980. My brothers were actively involved in the various Mitty programs. Both of my parents were actively involved with Mitty when my brothers attended there. They helped with different fundraisers and my father helped construct the girl's locker room. My whole family and I are extremely close to Father Russi. He has been a good friend of ours for many years.

My hobbies are an important part of my life. They help to keep me busy. I enjoy building model rockets and then launching them off a launch pad and recovering them. It's a great feeling to make something and see an accomplishment come from it. I also enjoy building remote control cars and racing them. Another hobby I enjoy is collecting and painting miniature soldiers. I make diaramas with them of different battles. My favorite hobby is collecting insects. I've collected well over 100 insects and have been collecting them for 4 years now. I really enjoy this hobby because I learn so much about nature and how insects behave. My collection consists of pinned and bottled insects. I have also collected small creatures like lizards, frogs (polywogs and eggs), fish and beetles. I have also had a live scorpion, black widow and other spiders and my prize was a live trantula that my brother Ray caught and brought home to me. Two snakes never made it past the front door. There are a few things my mom puts her foot down on. Bird nest, snake and lizard skins and two dried humming birds are a few other odds and ends that my collection contains.

One of my interest is science. I especially like learning about my surroundings and other life. Science is fun and facinating to me. I find science fun because I learn about things I didn't know about and it let's me learn about myself. Another interest I like is social studies. I greatly enjoy learning about other people and their customs around the world. Art is fun for me too. I enjoy making things from my own mind and drawing them on paper.

2

One activity I'm doing right now is playing 8th grade basketball. It's fun being around my classmates. Even though I can't play a whole lot, I try my best which is all that counts.

I'm applying to Mitty High School because I have a goal. My goal is to learn as much as possible during high school. That is why I would like to go to Mitty because I know it is a good school, with good teachers and there is a good christian education there for me. I try my best in school to learn as much as I can and to keep good grades. I want a good education because when I try to apply for a job, I'm going to have a harder time than other people because of my size. Many people think because dwarfs are small, we must have small minds. That's not true, we are just as smart as anyone else around. I want to go to Mitty High School because it is a great school and I would like to get a good education for myself.

Thank you.

Chris Figone
3393 Geneva Dr.
Santa Clara, Ca.
95051



Associated Press

Dwarfs Charles Bedow, left, his son, Jack, 12, and wife, Sally, stand in their average-sized kitchen

Dwarfs fight to overcome small minds they encounter

By Karren Mills
Associated Press

OWATONNA, Minn. — In a world where just about everything is made to suit average-sized people, a dwarf has little need to join an aerobics class to stay in shape. It takes at least twice the effort to climb stairs and twice as many steps to get anywhere.

"But sitting down evens us all out," says Charles Bedow, who has worked with the Little People of America Inc. for 24 years to help increase public awareness of dwarfism.

Bedow became involved in the organization three years after it was formed in 1957 by television and movie personality Billy Barty and 20 others in Reno, Nev. Little People now has more than 4,000 members nationwide, all under 4 feet 10 inches tall.

Bedow is a former president, vice president and treasurer of Little People and now does informational mailings for the organization, which has headquarters in Owatonna and in San Bruno on the San Francisco Peninsula.

There are about 100 different kinds of dwarfs, says Bedow, who works as a supervisor for Federated Insurance Cos. Several diseases and disorders can cause short stature, which may be accompanied by a wide range of other physical disabilities, including deformed limbs and spines. Many dwarfs must undergo leg straightening operations and back surgery.

However, Bedow maintains that the biggest problem faced by people

of small stature is the way they are perceived by others.

"People don't know how to approach us," says Bedow, who at 4-foot-6 is tall for a dwarf. "Since the public isn't too aware of us, they have a more standoffish approach."

For himself, Bedow says dwarfism is mostly an inconvenience.

"If you've never had height, you'll never miss what you don't have," he says. "Asking how it feels to be short is like asking how it feels to be a brunette."

The Bedow family lives in a middle-class residential area of Owatonna, a town of 18,600 about 70 miles south of Minneapolis.

"Our friends are average-sized people," he says. "Our house is not scaled down. We live in an average-sized world."

But Bedow, 50, acknowledges there have been some painful times. His two children, 17-year-old Jill and 12-year-old Jack, face many of the same prejudices he worked to conquer years ago.

"If you can go through school without getting too discouraged, it helps," Bedow says. "School is very traumatic. Everything is 'How attractive am I compared to the others?'"

"The seventh grade through the senior year are the most devastating. Back in college, nobody gives a rip again. You're there for an education."

However, Bedow and his wife, Sally, 38, also a dwarf, worked hard to prepare their children for the curiosity and possible prejudice they might

encounter.

On the first day of kindergarten, Mrs. Bedow says, their daughter had no trouble handling the curiosity.

"She stood up when the children were introducing themselves and said, 'My name is Jill Bedow. The reason I'm so short is because I'm a dwarf. If you have any questions about that, please see me after class.'"

Bedow, whose father was one of 11 children and the first dwarf in his family, says he and his wife had about a 50 percent chance of having average-sized children.

"Like anybody else, we hoped they would be average size, but they weren't," he says. "I don't consider myself abnormal and I don't consider them abnormal either."

Jill plans to go to college and become a special education teacher. Jack loves athletics and plays on a community hockey team, although he must play with children much younger because of his size.

Back in his father's day, Bedow says, most dwarfs ended up as circus performers or were hidden away by their families.

"My father went into the circus when he was 16. He was more or less coerced into it because his parents thought there was big money in it," says Bedow, who traveled the Ringling Bros. circuit with his parents during the first few years of his life.

His father died of a cerebral hemorrhage at age 46 after being thrown from an elephant.

Living

Features • Ad

No small matter



Tom Van Dyke — Mercury News

'Big people in little packages' reshape image of inferiority

By David E. Early
Mercury News Staff Writer

DON'T call me a midget," says Harriet Stickney. "I consider it a derogatory term."

At 4-foot-2, Stickney delivers this warning with the voice of a scowling giant. She is a pleasant,

accommodating woman with a delightfully rowdy laugh. But whenever the opportunity comes to clear up any misconceptions about her people — little people — Stickney does it with a certain gusto.

"I admit there are some days I just don't want to go outside and hear the whispers and the com-

ments. Things like, 'Look at that midget.' Or kids saying, 'Mommie, look at the little woman.' But I know the only way to change people is for us to get out there. To show people we might be small but we're also pretty terrific human beings."

Stickney is the president of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of Little People of America Inc., a self-help organization founded in 1957 by actor Billy Barty. It is a social, psychological and medical resource center for people of short stature, commonly known as

dwarfs. It has a national membership of about 5,000. The Bay Area LPA represents about 100 dwarfs plus 100 families of dwarf children.

"In the 22 years I've been in LPA, I think we have expanded the horizons enough so many people realize we can do more than be circus entertainers and newspaper vendors," says Stickney, who lives in San Bruno with her 4-foot-6 husband, Al. "But we need people to know just because we are small doesn't mean we cannot have families, have homes, be independent,

Dawn Abbey, a 3-foot-11 senior at Yerba Buena High School in San Jose, in her specially designed 5-foot-high attic bedroom.

and hold down jobs."

Connie East, 33, is a living testament to how normal life can be for a little person. Every day she commutes on BART from her home in Hayward to San Francisco's Mount Zion Hospital, where she is a medi-

Continued on Page 2L

What it's like to be little

Continued from Page 1L

cal secretary. She is no more or less afraid of the crowds and the big city than anyone else.

"I was almost mugged one time," says the 4-foot-3 East matter-of-factly. "I was coming back from the bank to my job when it happened. I was able to fight the guy off and ended up biting him on the hand. He didn't get a thing."

Her husband is average size but his parents are both little people. Connie's parents and siblings were all average size, as was her first child. But in June Connie will have a baby doctors say will be a dwarf. She loves her life and says she will make sure her dwarf child will have a rich, loving life.

Size doesn't count

"Look at us as people. Don't look at our size — that is not an indication of our hearts and abilities."

However, because many people do look at their size, little people say "heightism" haunts them in tall proportions. And for dwarfs, the problems are compounded by:

- Vast employment discrimination on all levels of the work force. Little people find it difficult to become everything from waiters to managers. And now they say big companies are telling little people they don't fit the corporate image.

- Parents who pull their children away from little people when their curious children point and ask questions. By doing this, parents are tacitly telling their children something is wrong with little people.

- The notion that little people are primarily employed in side shows, circuses and as professional wrestlers. In reality, little people tend to overcompensate at work and can be found in just about all walks of life.

- The belief that dwarfs are necessarily retarded or have mental capacities equal to their physical stature. The amount of retardation is no greater in little people.

- The anxiety average-sized people have around little people. Little people say many (especially employers) feel they can't speak frankly or demand a lot of work from them. Many feel little people are easily offended or embarrassed.

Dwarf-tossing contests

Recently, little people have been vocal because of widely circulated stories about a dwarf-tossing contest in Sydney, Australia. Hefty bouncers competed to see who could throw "Wee Robbie" Randall the farthest.

The 4-foot-1 Randall says that participating in the event showed he had a sense of humor about his condition. But a spokesman for LPA says the contest was "insulting and took dwarfs back to the days when they made fools of themselves in sideshows."

Barty, in San Francisco recently to talk about LPA and life as a little person, says the contest is just another example of the kind of mistreatment that can result if ignorance about little people is allowed to flourish. He called the contest sick, dehumanizing and dangerous.

"I mean, what would stop some drunk teen-agers at a party from seeing that story and deciding that throwing a little person around might be fun," says Barty, 60, probably one of the most famous dwarfs in America. "Considering all the problems little people have

with their bones, the idea is so terrible I don't even want to discuss it."

Barty says little people meet stature-related problems every minute of every day in ways average-sized people need to understand. And, conversely, he says many little people have to face up to their condition and learn not to see themselves as ugly and unwanted and cursed.

A 17-year-old Costa Mesa dwarf committed suicide in November 1983, leaving behind a note which ended with the words: "I guess I don't love myself enough or something. I just couldn't handle the life God gave me."

Her father, Richard Crandall, a dwarf was so shaken by the incident that he started the Short Stature Foundation, which aspires to become a lobbying group for little people.

The 3-foot-9 Barty admits that when you're small life is a series of attitudes and physical barriers that must be overcome. Prejudice is tough, but so are things like telephone booths, grocery stores, hotel closets, bar stools, elevators and cafeterias.

That's why LPA wants to encourage a few physical modifications in society (there has been an increase in accessible public telephones) and earn the understanding and respect of average-sized people. Such changes could mean a great improvement in the quality of life for those Barty calls "the big people in little packages."

Little-person tricks

While puffing along on his tiny, bent legs, Barty says the Fairmont Hotel should have moved him and his entourage out of rooms on the 19th floor and "12 miles from the lobby." The button in the elevator for the 19th floor was higher than six feet.

"The bell boy asked me what these were for," says Barty, fingering a package of unsharpened pencils he ordered from room service. "We use the eraser to push the buttons on the elevator because it's mushy like a finger. When you're a little person, learning something like that is very important." But even his pencil wouldn't reach the 19th-floor button.

Inside his closet at the Fairmont, Barty displayed another little-person trick. His tiny, custom-made clothes were on wire hangers he specially requested from the hotel. Those hangers were hung on the bottom of the closet's regular hangers and therefore within his reach.

Modification is a way of life for little people. Specially tailored clothes and shoes can be ordered from firms in Hong Kong. And it is not unusual for little people to redesign their homes. The Stickneys' kitchen, for example, has lower counters so Harriet and Al can cook and wash dishes with ease.

Dawn Abbey, 18, a senior at Yerba Buena High School in San Jose, has a bedroom in the attic of her parents' home. The 5-foot-high room has custom-fit shelves and closets. There is a small mirror and sink, a chair and a twin bed. Beneath the skylight is a fluffy menagerie of stuffed animals.

"I've been up here for 3½ years now, and even though there are two extra bedrooms downstairs, I like this room because it was specially designed for me and I'm comfortable here," says the 3-foot-11 Abbey, who drives her own 1979 Honda with the help of pedal extensions.

Abbey agrees with Barty's bro-mide that "the biggest space barrier you have to conquer is between your ears." She says conquering that barrier usually begins in school when the little person watches classmates spurt ahead physically. At first little people endure teasing about their large heads, their stumpy legs, their

short, plump fingers and their waddling walks.

Later, their unique size earns them a certain popular notoriety. Classmates are very friendly and genuinely protective. No one dares pick on them and they become the best-known person at school.

Although this popularity continues, another barrier is erected when it's time for dancing and dating.

"I have lots of friends, but sometimes it's hard seeing my friends going out on dates while I head on home," says Abbey. "When I want to talk about it I go to my parents or other little people I meet at LPA meetings. Those are the only people who really understand how I feel."

Difficult time

Adolescence is perhaps the most difficult time in little people's lives because it is a time that forces them to face up to their condition.

Andre Boursse, an affirmative-action officer for the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency, remembers that when he was in high school he thought he could make people forget his condition by succeeding on the gymnastics team.

"I figured I'd be a jock and that would be my key to fame, fortune, wine, women and song," says Boursse. He practiced every day on the still rings and ultimately won a state championship.

But when the bleachers cleared and no fawning cheerleaders fell before his 4-foot-6-inch frame, Boursse was devastated. He realized real success with people would be earned if he became someone respected for his humor, personality, intellect and ability.

"If you feel bad about yourself it will come out and others will pick up on it and shy away from you," says Boursse, 36. "And if parents of a little person feel bad about themselves and their child, that attitude will come out and have an effect on the kid."

Stephanie's story

Perhaps that's why Trish Mayhugh of Livermore fought so hard to get her 7-year-old daughter, Stephanie, into public school. Mayhugh says she is proud of her little person and wants the whole world to know.

The school district feared for the girl because she has seckle syndrome, a form of dwarfism that makes her extremely tiny. There are only five other known cases.

At age 7, Stephanie is 26¼ inches tall (about four inches longer than this news page) and weighs 12½ pounds. Her palms are the size of postage stamps. Her voice is a happy, high-pitched squeak.

She looks like a perfectly proportioned doll that moves. When amazed gawkers call her a baby, Stephanie pipes up and proclaims, "I'm not a baby, I'm just a dwarf."

By the time her non-dwarf baby brother was 6 months old, he was too big for her to hold, says her mother. When Stephanie's father said, "Sorry, honey. You can't hold him because he is bigger than you are," Stephanie ran to her room and cried.

Still, today the child doctors said would be a vegetable attends first grade, wears her own tiny eyeglasses, sits in her own tiny desk and does school work from a tiny black board near her seat to accommodate her poor vision and her size.

"The thing I would tell anyone who has a dwarf child is to love that child and to keep on asking questions," says Mayhugh. "Stephanie has totally amazed us since she was born with all she has overcome. If we had listened to the doctors, she would be in an institution."

For information about Little People of America, Inc. write to P.O. Box 633, San Bruno, Calif. 94066.

Ann Landers



The worst handicap is others' resentment

DEAR ANN — I would like to address this to your readers:

DEAR MR. AND MRS. JOHN Q. PUBLIC — I'm a 13-year-old boy who hit his head diving through an inner tube in a backyard pool.

I'm a 26-year-old housewife who was slammed into broadside by a drunk driver.

I'm a 36-year-old male who had a motorcycle wreck at 18 mph.

We all have one thing in common. We crushed our spinal cords. We are handicapped. We are in wheelchairs.

When your children see us in public places and make a comment, don't yank them away as though we are monsters. They are curious about what has happened to us. Let them ask us and we will tell them.

When we park in handicapped parking places that seem spacious to you, please don't glare at us and become angry. We need spaces large enough to get out of our vehicles.

Mr. Businessman, when we ask your security to ticket the vehicles, please don't become belligerent and say it drives away customers. We spend money, too.

What I'm trying to explain is that *we are you*, only we had our accidents before you did. We didn't think it could happen to us either, but a patch of wet sand and a motorcycle going 18 mph changed my life forever.

I still love my wife and 7-year-old son as before. I want to be able to take them out to eat, to movies and on vacations, just as you do. I don't get upset because you have 5,000 parking spaces at a shopping mall and I have only three. The physically disabled don't need your sympathy, and we don't need your resentment either.

— G.W.L. in Norcross, Ga.

DEAR NORCROSS — You've written a letter that is sure to shake a lot of complacent people out of their comfy, little cocoons. Thank you.

DEAR ANN — Today I stepped out of a fabric store and saw an elderly woman lying on the sidewalk with a small crowd of onlookers standing around gawking. The woman had fallen and shattered her glasses while running to catch the bus. Her face was cut and she appeared to have a fractured wrist. Someone had the good sense to call a police car to take her to the hospital, but no one seemed to know what to do next.

I bent down, took the woman's hand, and began talking to her in a calm, reassuring way. I told her she would be OK and that help was on the way. As I spoke, I kept patting her hand. She calmed down and even began joking about it "not being her day" when the police car arrived.

Ann, please tell your readers that they need not be nurses or doctors to offer comfort to an injured person. (I am a former teacher.) If someone witnesses an accident, first direct a person nearby to call an ambulance or the police. Then kneel at the injured person's side and speak softly in an authoritative, reassuring manner.

Setting the Record Straight

Due to a reporter's error, the vice mayor of San Jose was incorrectly identified in the South Bay trivia game which ran in the Sunday, March 17, Living section. The vice mayor is Susan Hammer.



Cap Carpenter — Mercury News

Harriet Stickney (right) and her neighbor, Chris Schindler, chat in the Stickneys' kitchen, remodeled to fit the Stickneys' smaller proportions.

Little people plagued by myths and mysteries

THERE are more than 100 types of dwarfism and each is considered to be a separate disease. According to Little People of America Inc., more than 82,000 dwarfs are born each year.

Ninety percent of all dwarfs are born to parents of average size and many have siblings of average size.

Not much is known about dwarfism. It is caused by a random mutation in the cartilage genes. Some rare cases of pituitary

dwarfism can be treated with limited success using growth hormones. Last May scientists at the University of Chicago announced the discovery of the genetic defect that causes dwarfism. Still, they cautioned any treatment for dwarfism was many years away.

Many dwarfs experience frequent physical and medical problems. These include everything from sinus and eye troubles to arthritis and numerous skeletal and bone

complications. They do not necessarily have shorter life spans, but the length and quality of their lives depends upon the type of dwarfism.

There are two major types of dwarfism: ■ **Achondroplastic**, the most common type, is characterized by average-sized heads and torsos but unusually short arms and legs.

■ **Hypopituitary**, caused by malfunctioning pituitary glands that produce an insuf-

ficient amount of growth hormone, results in small men and women with average proportions.

Another type, diastrophic, is an uncommon but more troublesome form of dwarfism. Diastrophic dwarfs experience severe complications with their limbs, especially hands, legs and feet. These people usually require many years of surgery and may often still require wheelchairs or crutches.

— David E. Early

LOCAL

Bedow fights for handicapped

OWATONNA — Charles Bedow is a dwarf. He is Minnesota's nominee for the President's Trophy, a national award recognizing achievement by people with handicaps. His daughter, also a dwarf, recently transferred from the University of Minnesota-Duluth to a college in Texas because Duluth instructors make life difficult for people with handicaps, her father says.

There's a tie-in here. As long as society expects handicapped people to fail and feels obliged to grant awards for what "normal" people do every day, life will be difficult for those people. And as long as the education system fails to provide adequate education for the handicapped, the awards will be around for the successful exceptions.

It's a cycle Charles Bedow wants to break. He's lobbied, served on commissions, urged handicapped people to educate themselves and aim for the top of their fields.

Since his daughter started college, he's made education his focus. He thought life on campus had changed for the handicapped, but it hasn't.

Schools find money for athletic scholarships for students who will never be professional athletes.



DONNA GILSON
Press staff reporter

and places those students in part-time jobs at outrageous pay, Bedow asserts.

Yet the handicapped students who really need the financial help can't find it. Nor can they find college instructors willing to adapt their teaching methods to handicapped students trying hard to become productive citizens, says Bedow.

"There's no one guaranteeing you your children will be normal," he says. "Picture yourself with about 18 years of more medical bills than most people have." That's the financial reality for parents of children with handicaps. Education is the way up for their children even more than for others, Bedow believes.

"The schools look at them like maybe they should be on welfare all their lives. But they'll try harder than the average kid

because they've been trying harder all their lives," he says.

Vocational rehabilitation counselors are still trying to track handicapped kids into skills leading to dead-end jobs, Bedow adds. Educators lump children with physical and mental handicaps in the same group, short-changing both, he believes.

Minnesota is "head and shoulders" above other states when it comes to eliminating architectural barriers, Bedow says, but its educational system has a long way to go to meet the needs of students overcoming handicaps.

"Buildings do not make education. Until we get the staff to realize these people need jobs and self-esteem, we might as well consign them to institutions, which is where many think they should be," says Bedow.

Should a handicapped student maneuver his wheelchair or his crutches or his white cane or his shorter-than-average body over the educational hurdles, he often hits a closed door into the workplace, Bedow says. Employers fear increased risk of injury or illness and higher workers' compensation costs from handicapped workers. All other things being equal, an able-bodied applicant wins out over a handicapped one every time, Bedow says.



Charles Bedow

Continuing a crusade

As in the past, his efforts toward education changes will take the form of working one-on-one with handicapped individuals, taking on a barrier at a time.

One day, he hopes the rest of the world will realize what he's known all along: "It does not take 100 percent of the human body to perform any job."

And one word of warning: Charles Bedow's not through with the University of Minnesota in Duluth.

□ A happy 30th birthday yesterday for Julie Iles, of North Ryde, just back from the Little People of America convention and games in Baltimore. She collected a gold medal for the 100-metre freestyle and silvers in the 50-metre freestyle and table tennis, while her friend Dawn Marsh won a silver in the relay and a bronze with a basketball team. There were about 1,000 at the convention, something our little people would like to emulate.

When a little help goes a long way

By Mary Ann Hogan
Tribune Staff Writer

Physical therapist Peggy Schultz likes to tell the story about the 93-year-old patient, a former surgeon, who suffered a stroke, fractured a hip, and went home from the hospital confused and convinced that he would never walk again. Within weeks, he was walking.

Schultz, who works with the Berkeley Visiting Nurses Association — one of a number of home health agencies in the Bay Area — says that the magic at work in that case and in others she's seen is home health care.

Public interest in home health as an alternative to long term hospital care and institutionalization has mushroomed within the last decade, and particularly within the last few years, with Medicare and other insurance carriers adding home health to their list of paid services.

Home health patients range from stroke victims to post-operative patients to older people needing skilled nursing. No matter what the patient's particular problem or need, Schultz says, the home setting gives them a "dignified" alternative to the sometimes grueling task of rehabilitation.

"Homebound people in general," says Schultz, "and older people in particular, tend to do better in their own homes than in the sterile environment of a hospital, with people coming in all the time to poke and prod you, and where one set of standards tends to get imposed on everyone equally."

Earlier this month, the first National Home Health Care Week Senate Resolution cited home health as an effective alternative to institu-

tionalization, "less costly ... and more desirable for the patient."

Says Schultz: "When you work in home health you have to be extra sensitive to patients' cultures, customs and needs. You become a guest in their homes. And when you go into their homes you tend to get the routine of their lives. You get a sense of what they do with their lives, of how they live."

"Everything in a particular home health treatment program is tailor-made to fit the individual patient."

Never did that prove to be so true as when Schultz made her first visit last year to the Richmond home of new patient Mary Jane Carlino and her husband Neno.

Mary Jane was immobilized with crippling complications after undergoing back surgery. She was in a wheelchair, and for a number of months, in a body cast. "I couldn't even wiggle my toes," Mary Jane says.

The problem was complicated by her size — she is a dwarf, standing 3 feet 9 inches tall. Husband Neno, at 4-foot-4 ("With my shoes on"), also had a bad back — a condition common to dwarves — and was in no shape to lift his wife by himself.

Schultz, of course, had seen a lot of bad back injuries, had helped a lot of patients "re-learn" basic activities like rolling out of bed and walking.

But Mary Jane's situation was a new one. Everything Schultz had learned about gait, about the mechanical rotation of the trunk and pelvis, about the distance and working relationship between the legs and the back, just didn't hold

See NURSE, Page E-9



Tribune photo by Robert Stinnett

Physical therapist Peggy Schultz tailors home treatment to patients such as Mary Jane Carlino, who, like her husband, Neno, is a dwarf.

Nurse

Continued from Page E-1

true for "little people" — the term Mary Jane, Neno and others who share the genetically transmitted condition of dwarfism use to describe themselves.

"All my gait therapy training," Schultz says, "everything they teach you in the physical therapy text books, went right out the window."

So, instead of relying on by-the-book methods, Schultz the teacher became Schultz the student, as she observed husband Neno, to find out little people's walking patterns; as she let Mary Jane teach her how little people roll out of bed and turn over from belly to back, all of which, because of the awkward weight distribution and shorter-than-average limbs, is different from the way it's done by a person of average size.

Wheelchair users have to rely on the strength of their arms to to push themselves up, and since little people's arms don't straighten at the elbow, Schultz came up with idea of using blocks to give Mary Jane something to push against for extra leverage. And since her patient needed pressure stockings to reduce leg swelling, and since therapeutic stockings don't come in the right size, shape and proportion for little people's legs, Schultz took the stockings home, cut out the ankle part, sewed the calf and foot parts together and created a custom-made item for her favorite patient.

"Peggy was wonderful," Mary Jane says of Schultz.

The feeling, it is clear, was mutual. Neno and Mary Jane, Schultz soon discovered, may have been smaller than usual in the size department. But their hearts and their humor — not to mention their willingness to give Mary Jane's convalescence their all — were bigger than anything the seasoned physical therapist had run across.

The first day Schultz came to their house, Mary Jane offered her a cup of coffee. Schultz said no thanks. "What's the matter?" Mary Jane said. "Are you afraid it'll stunt your growth?"

On the refrigerator of the Carlino's scaled-down kitchen (complete with 28-inch high table top stove) is a cartoon of a giraffe, with the legend: "Even tall people were once little."

Neno and Mary Jane — temporarily set back by Mary Jane's condition, but by no means defeated — believe that the word "can't" should not hold a place in the vocabulary of people who want to get things done.

Neno says he got his spunk from his tall father — all the members of Mary Jane's and Neno's nuclear families are average in size — who never let his son get away with using his height as an excuse not to get things done.

Says Neno, "Ever since I was a kid, I never used the word 'can't'. I figure, if you want something bad enough, you can always do it."

He wants Mary Jane back in the running — soon.

